

# Times 10

YOUR MAGAZINE OF CHOICE

Vol 4, Number 4, May/June 1997

What a Lady!  
Our Maureen Irwin

Page 6



Identity  
Pg's 8, 10, 16

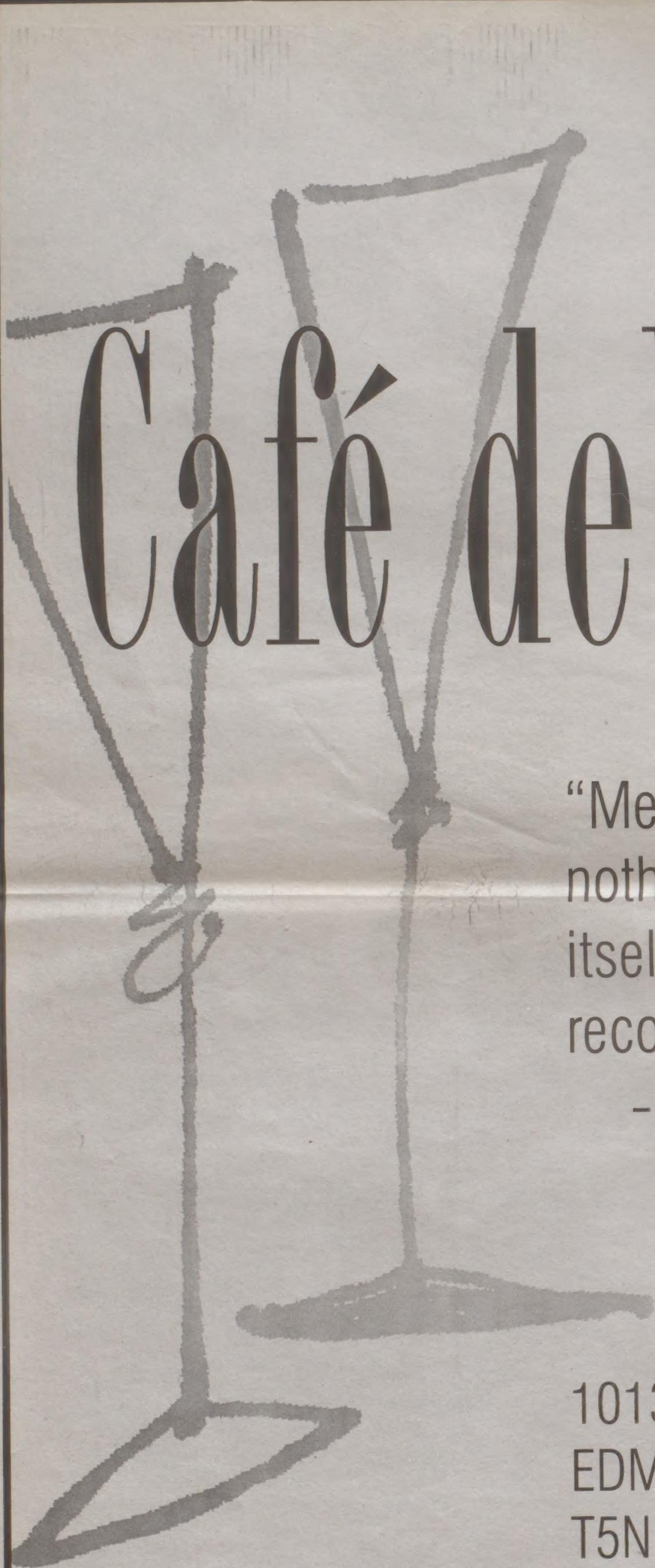
Business  
Pg 15

Fun  
Pg's 9, 20, 26

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**TIMES .10**  
**YOUR MAGAZINE OF CHOICE**

Vol. 4 Number 4  
May/June, 1997  
Edmonton, Alberta

News & Notes from the Battlefront.....	4
Capital City Politics.....	5
A Very Unique Lady.....	6
Pride not Arrogance by Rev Bidwell.....	7
Why the Rainbow Flag?.....	8
Dear Sassy.....	9
The Addiction Experience.....	10
Support Groups & Services .....	14
What is a Cafe de Ville?.....	15
My Child is Gay: by Scott Bidstrup.....	16
Prom King & Queen.....	20
Editorial Comments.....	21
Pride Festival Committee.....	22
A Voice from GLCCE: .....	23
Paul is Dead: by Robert Toft.....	24
Horoscopes: David Michael .....	26

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# FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

## "U.S. Panel Urges Study of Medical Marijuana"

New York Times

The potential medical benefits of marijuana merit further study, said a panel of experts convened by the National Institutes of Health to consider the controversial issue. Dr. Alan Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said the committee's recommendations on possible studies of the drug are expected within four weeks. The group concluded that marijuana appears beneficial for several diseases or conditions. However, further study is needed to determine whether it is better than proven therapies, and whether benefits can be obtained without the intoxication that comes with smoking the drug. The major active ingredient in marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, is already available in a medication used to treat nausea associated with chemotherapy and AIDS-related wasting. Protesters interrupted the NIH panel's meeting several times, claiming that the conference was a "stalling tactic" to delay wider access to marijuana by patients with AIDS, cancer, and other diseases.

## "HIV Initiative"

Financial Times

Shell International, Levi Strauss, the W.H. Smith group, and Glaxo Wellcome have joined together to back a national initiative in the United Kingdom on improving awareness among employers about how to handle hiring and employing HIV-positive workers. A total of 48 U.K. companies have already signed up to support the National AIDS Trust statement on employment principles, which follows the 1996 introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act. The Act provides protection from HIV-related employment discrimination. The companies involved have pledged to oppose or post-employment HIV testing and to ensure that when an employee's HIV status is known that it does not lead to "any unnecessary and damaging disclosures."

## "STD Control Key to HIV Prevention"

Reuters

Advances in HIV treatment over the last year have been matched by progress "in understanding

factors related to the prevention of HIV transmission," according to researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One major factor in preventing HIV transmission is controlling the transmission of other sexually transmitted diseases. In an editorial in the American Journal of Public Health, the researchers note that the "prevalence of HIV shedding in the genital tracts of both men and women increases substantially in the presence not only of accelerating immunosuppression but also of other STDs." Moreover, research has also proven that STD treatment can reduce HIV incidence. The researchers advocate that STD detection and treatment be incorporated into HIV prevention efforts. The editorial also recommends the promotion of condom use and interventions to lower the number of dangerous sexual behaviors and drug use.

## "Potential AIDS Treatment Advance Is Revealed"

Philadelphia Inquirer

Raising hopes for a new AIDS treatment, U.S. researchers report that they have discovered a way to genetically prevent the formation of a protein needed by HIV to enter some cells. Scientists at the Naval Medical Research Institute announced that they can prevent T-cells, a prime target of HIV, from making the surface protein CCR5, used as a receptor by the virus. This stops HIV's ability to infect T-cells, Institute researcher Dr. Carl H. June explained. "We know that if you are born without the CCR5 gene, it is very hard to get infected with HIV," he said. "Our work shows that you can artificially induce this immunity by turning off the CCR5 gene in the nucleus of the cell." The report will be published in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

## "Some Tattoos Are Health Risk"



## USA Today

Tattoos carry certain health risks if sterile equipment is not used, claims Dr. Donna Goldman of the Center for Liver Diseases and Transplantation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, in a letter to the editors of USA Today. Goldman notes that hepatitis B and C are among the bloodborne viruses that can be transmitted through contaminated equipment. Individuals infected with hepatitis C may not have recognizable symptoms for years, and up to 20 percent of those who are infected will develop liver problems. People who should consider testing, Goldman advises, include those who received tattoos and/or body piercing, had pre-1990 blood transfusions, or had sex with multiple partners.

## "Patients Seek More Funds for Costly AIDS Drugs"

Reuters

AIDS patients, doctors, and activists said Thursday that new medications

(protease inhibitors) to treat the disease are effective, but that federal and state governments need to do more to make them available to AIDS patients. The AIDS Drug Assistance Programme working group estimates that the cost of the drugs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for the next fiscal year will be more than \$500 million. The group, which will soon release an updated report on access to drugs in certain states, notes that the current budget does not appear to

be adequate, and that it might be exhausted halfway through the year. Preliminary data, the group adds, indicate that four states still do not provide any of the protease inhibitors.

## "Mother Earth"

POZ

Shana Humphrey, a Native American who was "adopted out" to a white family as a child, returned to her roots at the age of 18, hoping to find her biological mother. She says the return to Native culture felt familiar to her, as did the birth of her son at age 20. A year after her son's birth, Humphrey started a relationship with a man who was "all I should have desired in a husband, according to the values I was raised with," she says. After she declined his marriage proposal, he told her he had AIDS and she later tested positive for HIV. Humphrey explains that she came to grips with the infection by telling the virus, "You came into my body without my knowing it. You're here and you're welcome, but you have to understand that if you kill me by over-replicating, you will kill yourself." She says that the elders in her community have helped her understand that HIV comes from the Earth. "People have done a lot to weaken the earth's immune system, raping and pillaging its natural resources. The earth had no choice but to give us a mirror."

## THE FRONT PAGE

### NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

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# Capital City Politics

## Alberta Politics The “Right” Way??

Ralph's team has been re-elected in a manner that has given them free reign to proceed on their discriminatory path of denial of equality. The reality of our situation continues and the governments antiquated attitudes came to the forefront yet again recently when they decided on "natural family" being the only family to access foster children. In their infinite wisdom they have reminded us of their true colors in variety of ways. "So you have had foster children, lots of them as tremendously successful parent, now that "they" know you are a lesbian you will not be allowed another foster child. Yes, we still can be fired based on the fact we are gay or lesbian. Denied access to services, well yes, this is Alberta after all. Kicked out of your apartment? No problem. Equality not likely? Is this "right"? As difficult as that may be for our community there recently has been a couple of events that have indicated to me that many Albertans do in fact support our community despite the fact our provincial government does not. Ms. T the lesbian mother which I refer to above has re-ignited our struggle. It has reintroduced yet another way our families and our community is being attacked at yet a new level or hatred by our government. Yes it is so incredibly wrong. So what can you do about the attitude of this government and in our society?

There are a number of actions that you take not just on this issue but on a regular basis. All of this with out joining a committee or spending a lot of time.

1. Pick up your phone and call the your MLA or the minister responsible. In the foster situation it is Dr. Lyle Oberg Minister for Social Services 427-2606 If they do not reverse this ridiculous policy phone him. Tell him he is wrong. Then call your own MLA and inform he/her. They carefully track these numbers so please take the time to call.
2. Same situation applies to our Pride celebrations. If our homophobic Mayor denies our proclamation Phone him Mayor Bill Smith 496-8100 Tell him he is wrong
3. Express your self! If you hear homophobic or for that matter any "ism" based jokes or slurs SPEAK UP. If your not real our then at least tell them your grandma is lesbian or your uncle and his boyfriend are proud contributing members of society. Better yet, tell them directly, you find their comments unacceptable. Come out to them.

Chances are they will be considerably more embarrassed than your are.

4. Write letters. If you are at your doctor's office, hair dresser or any waiting room has Alberta Report COMPLAIN. Photo copy some of the blatant homophobia and tell them it is wrong and offensive. Tell them to cancel their subscription and why. This rag that purports to be a magazine constantly bashes our community in a horrific manner.
5. Letters to the Editor are an excellent way to express yourself.

In our community there recently has been a few encouraging events that have indicated to me that many Albertans do in fact support our community despite the fact our provincial government does not. The mainstream support of both major newspapers in their main editorials in Edmonton and Calgary supporting Ms. T's right to foster children is noteworthy. Other mainstream media outlets have also been supportive. The Calgary school board is implementing zero tolerance with respect to gay and lesbian youth attending their schools. How encouraging it must be to be able to go to school knowing you can be out and safe. Both the Edmonton and Calgary Police Service are cooperating with our community at a number of levels with the Liaison groups in our cities. The final issue was at the "Requiem" where two significant events occurred. Edmonton Vocal Minority joined with the Alberta Ballet and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra to present this historical event. This is the first time the a gay and lesbian choir has gathered at a professional level with mainstream groups with this stature in Canada. EVM has done much by virtue of it's existence to promote diversity and tolerance. They are truly a very proud part of our community and I applaud all those involved. They are truly make our community proud! The other was the ballet itself. One of the most beautiful scenes was three men dancing together, closely and tenderly followed by three women who likewise performed. It is noteworthy as it was embraced and met with thunderous applause at the end of the performance. Alberta ballet is also to be applauded for this splendid performance that was inclusive and overflowed with tolerance and diversity.

Much is left to be done, be proud, be involved and I encourage you to do your part, however small.

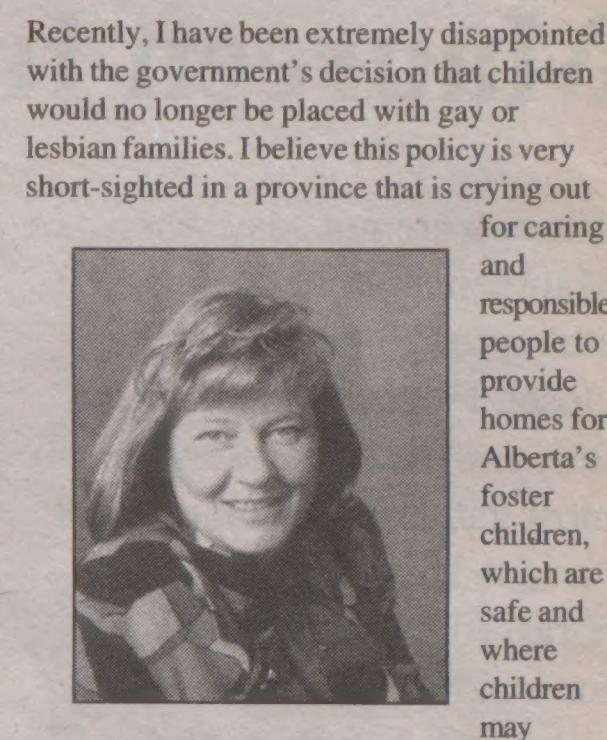
Murray Billett

## A Sincere Thank You

by Laurie Blakeman MLA

As the new MLA for Edmonton Centre, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to members of the gay and lesbian community for their support in the provincial election.

I am pleased to have been appointed the Opposition Critic for the Department of Community Development which includes: women's issues; arts and culture; multiculturalism; recreation; historical resources; exhibitions and fairs; Wild Rose Foundation; and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC).



Recently, I have been extremely disappointed with the government's decision that children would no longer be placed with gay or lesbian families. I believe this policy is very short-sighted in a province that is crying out for caring and responsible people to provide homes for Alberta's foster children, which are safe and where children may

flourish in an environment of dignity and respect.

During Question Period April 18th, the Liberal Opposition raised this issue by asking questions such as:

"The best interest of the children has always come first when placing children in a foster home. Departmental criteria reflected this priority. . . [N]ow it appears that this government is prepared to allow the individual prejudice of a minister and an opinion survey. . . [to] replace this long standing criteria. What steps has the Minister Responsible for Human Rights taken to instruct her colleague, the Minister of Family and Social Services, that personal prejudice not be allowed to replace departmental policy until this matter is resolved? Do prospective foster parents have to ensure that their personal histories are in line with the minister's beliefs. . .?"

We also asked if the Minister Responsible for Human Rights would intervene in the case of Ms T. to ensure the policy that children come first would not be sacrificed for ministerial prejudice. I would add my personal voice to those of my colleague's, by stating that I believe morality issues have no place in the political process and the government should stop making sexual orientation an issue.

For the time being, the constituency office remains at 10042 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T5K 1V6.

The phone number is 482-5826; the fax number is 482-2750.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Over the next while I hope to be able to meet with various groups from the constituency, but in the meantime, either myself or Joanne Janzen, the constituency manager would be happy to hear from you with concerns or questions you may have on this, or any other issue. Laurie Blakeman, MLA  
Edmonton Centre

# Being There... with Maureen Irwin

Times were not easy when Maureen and her friends first attempted to get out of the closet. Places to meet where few, and during those years most gatherings took place at various homes. Police harassed the individuals for making too much noise and disturbing the peace.

It was during those times that Maureen set out to volunteer much of her time to help get organizations such as GATE off the ground. (Later called GALA). She told us that the **Pride committee during the early 70's consisted of "about eight to twelve people"**

The entire concept behind GALA was to get younger people involved. **"living**

**your life is a statement"** says Maureen. As

people get older it is good to have the younger generation take their place instead of blocking the flow of new ideas and ideals. Lately Maureen has been thinking out loud and says "quite frankly, people don't care" about your sexuality. "Just get on with your life, pay your taxes and make certain that your dog doesn't do anything wrong on the neighbours lawn"

Her volunteer history stretches back to 1966 where she became involved with various organizations and groups. Everything from Choir Mother to working with physically challenged kids. It was around the later part

of the 70's when she became a member of a feminist book store called Common Woman Books. While with GATE she helped set up the Wominspace group for lesbian social and recreational purposes. Maureen has done and is still doing a lot of public speaking to all sorts of University, College and Community Schools whenever she gets the chance.

**One of her more memorable**

**exist, do it!!"**

Just because the world is changing is no reason not to get involved. There are a lot more choice now because of those changes. Having a good Community Centre is a terrific idea and it will only survive if the community supports it. In all of the years volunteering

Maureen Irwin found that **"people**

**close to you need to know who you really are"**

That is when the fun really begins.

As to awards, Maureen has a fair share that she proudly displays for the visitor or guests at her

home. An Award of Merit from Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Commemorative Medal for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada, Canada Volunteer Award Medal and Certificate of Honour (presented to 20 Canadians in 1993)

Living now in her committed relationship with Sheryl, she lives a modest life and hopes that she will still be able to give to the community by working on the gay and lesbian archives, among a few other projects. "people need to be together, getting married is not going to solve problems in relationships". And if you don't like what I

have to say, well, **"I am me, I am different, and I am okay."**

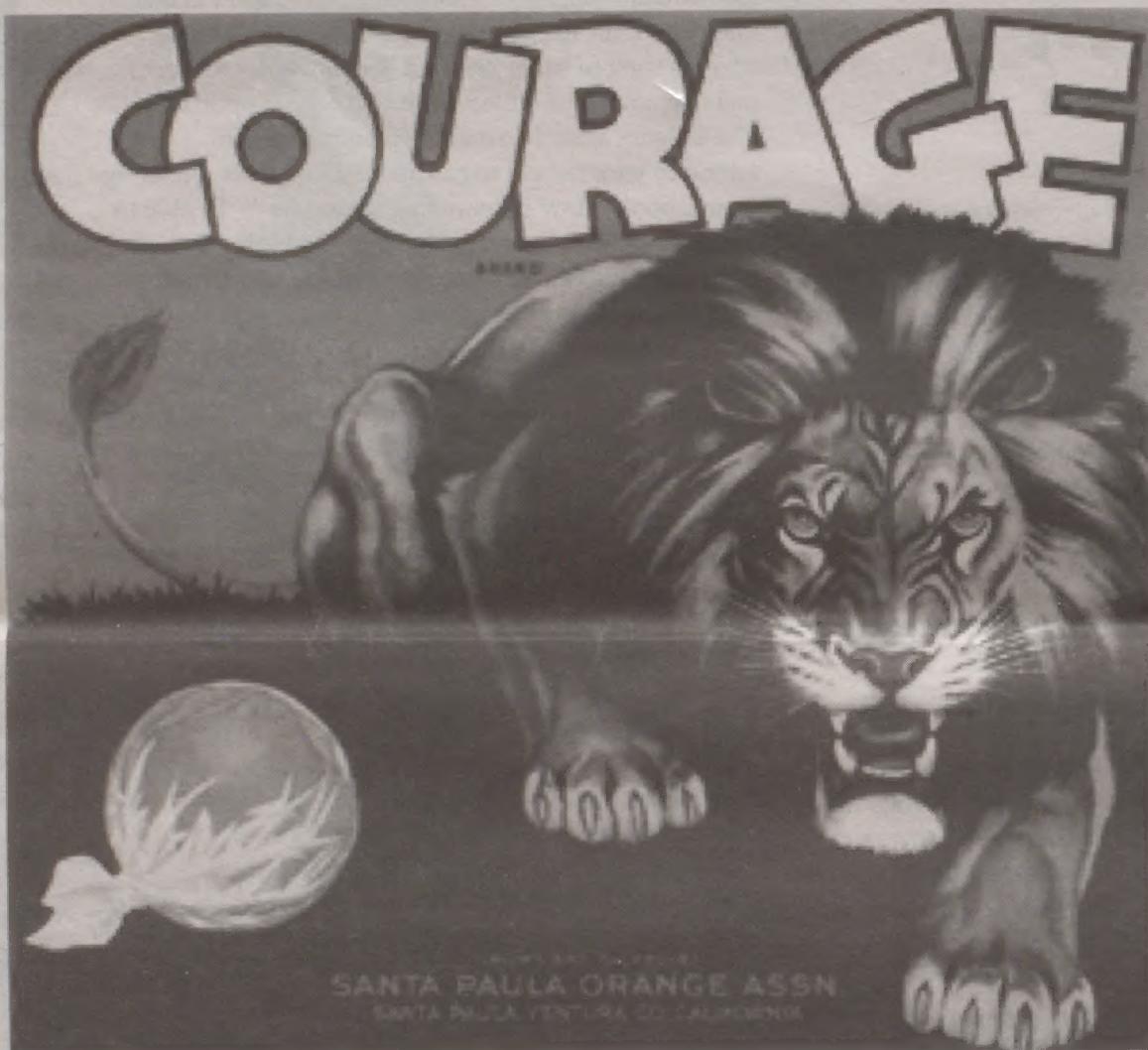
**moments was speaking with Michael Phair at the first Pride Parade because they had so much fun.**

Simply put she says; "people can make their own personal decisions, and that **most**

**people do not want to be separated from each other"** That is the great part of volunteering.

You can get to meet all sorts of people that you would never see around at other venues. What about getting involved? It is up to each person to examine their motives and they should be feeling good about it, and have a good time at whatever they do.

**Most of all "if it doesn't**



## Pride, not Arrogance

Rev. Charles Bidwell, PhD.

If you're like most of the folks I know, you probably didn't consider yourself a loved child of God when you were growing up. You probably thought that you would only be accepted/valued by being like everyone else and by doing certain expected things. You probably never felt that what you were and how you felt were gifts to humanity from God. You probably lived much of your life not being proud of who you were or are and hiding your uniqueness. You were probably also taught that pride is a sin.

Well, the good news is that you are God's beloved creation and your uniqueness is something to be proud of. We are learning that we have every right to be respected as children of God. Pride is a virtuous attribute. As children of God and as uniquely gifted creatures we ought to be proud of who we are.

Many of us grew up with the list of the "seven deadly sins" as: anger, envy, pride, gluttony, lust, greed, and sloth. The sin of pride occupied a prominent place in that grand tableau. Many of us had ingrained in our minds that to be proud was a bad thing. I believe that what is sinful is arrogance - the idea that we are better or superior to others. There are scenes and parables in the Christian Scriptures that urge us to avoid arrogance and to

be humble. When you go to a party do not sit at the head table lest the host come and say that you are in the seat on a more honoured guest and you will be humiliated at having to take a "lower" seat. But

instead, sit at a humble seat and then, if the host chooses, you will be invited to come and sit at a more exalted place [Luke 14:7-11]. Arrogance is what separates us and divides us and interferes with humility and empathy and respect. That is why arrogance is sinful and pride can be virtuous.

So I endorse gay pride and I celebrate our diversity. Are we a proud community? Are we proud of the accomplishments and of our behaviour? What are you doing to increase pride in our diverse community in Edmonton? When the Canadian Government passed Bill 33 and every Canadian was protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, we had cause to celebrate. When the Human Rights Tribunal recently directed the Canadian Government and all the agencies it regulates to rewrite their policies to ensure that same-sex partners receive equal treatment to mixed-sex partnerships, we had cause to celebrate that finally another "right" and justice-making thing had happened in our land.

But there is more to our community life than an absence of discrimination. What were your needs when you came out? Where did you turn to get help or a listening ear? Who was there for you? OK, now, how are you showing your gratitude for that gift? What are you contributing to our community? What is making you proud to be a part of this community? If something is not making you proud of our community, then what are you doing about it to correct or improve the situation?

The annual Pride Awards recognize contributions of individuals and groups to the community. These people have given back to our community because of what they have received. They are diverse and they are proud of our community. We have a solid core of dedicated individuals and we can welcome even more people to participate in our community life and leadership.

The best way to get to know a community or group of people is to listen to what they tell you about themselves. When you do that with those people, you see a diverse community of people, many of whom have a deep spirituality; being subjected to bigotry and oppression

simply for being who you are tends to cultivate that. We also see individuals who have come to an understanding in their sense of self that allows their own freedom as well as that of others. The positive sense of self-esteem that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people feel as the result of their quest for self-understanding is healthy and does not make us feel in any way superior (arrogant) to others.

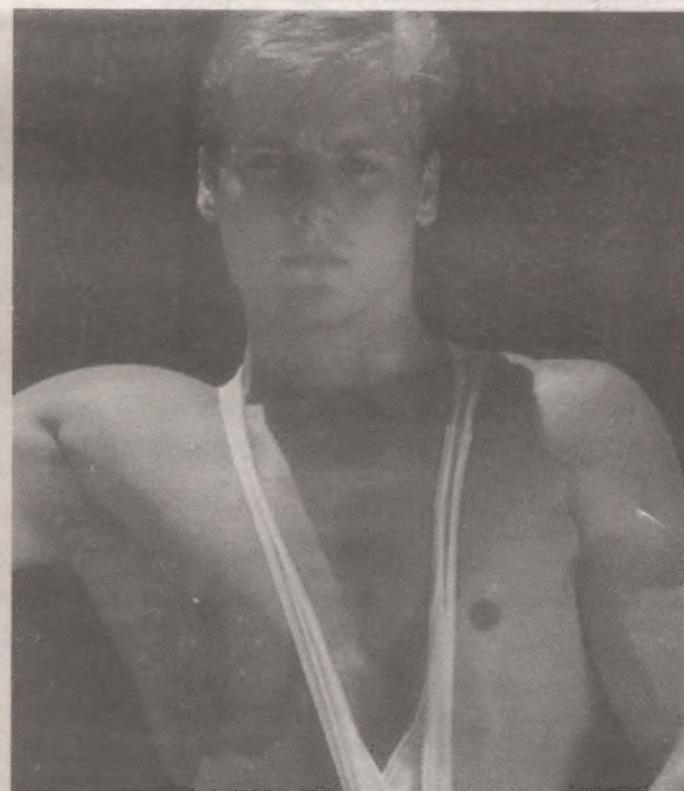
Gay pride endorses the concept that it is appropriate for all people to enter into loving, committed relationships openly, to be safe on our own streets, to keep our families (by birth, adoption, or choice) intact.

Just as we have come to understand that some expressions of anger are appropriate, so are some expressions of pride: pride in achievement and pride in self-esteem among them. Gay pride is a celebration of the full range of God-given human diversity. God creates us spectacularly diverse. The sin of pride—the destructive aspect—is the arrogance, the haughtiness, the self-importance, and the disregard for the needs and the rights of others. We need to avoid it while at the same time building the events and services in our community which increase our pride and self-esteem. Take pride in our diverse community - there's a place for you to participate.

Once we might have thought we were not valued, but thank God some people didn't believe that myth and declared that they knew themselves to be equal to all other humans and to be children of God, as much as anyone else. Because of their convictions and service we are growing in our community self-esteem and personal comfort in Edmonton. You are loved for who you are and your unique feelings and insights. Be proud and serve alongside the spirits of those who have gone before to bring us this far.

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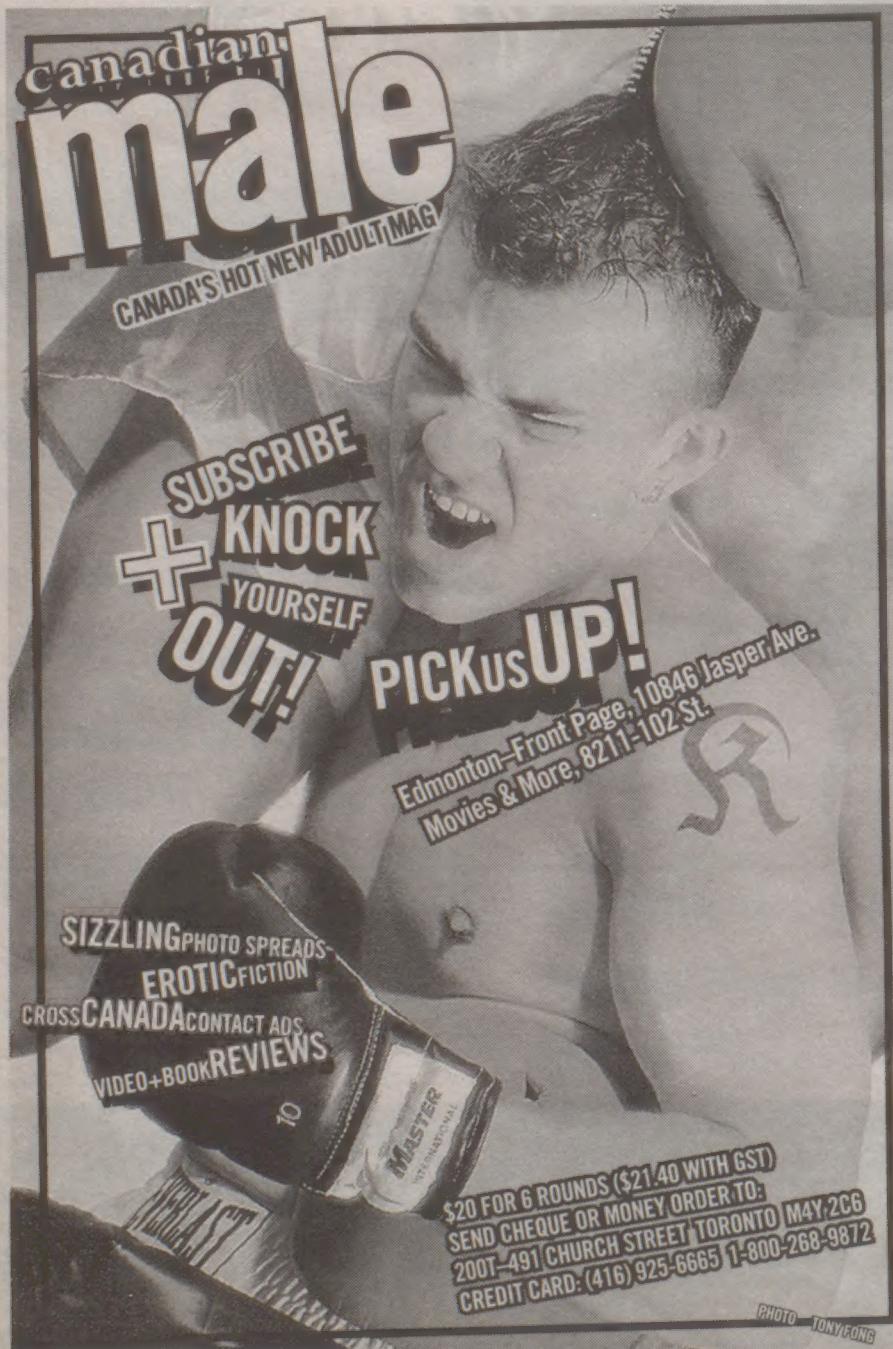
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# Why The Rainbow Flag

The Alyson Almanac: A Treasury of Information for the Gay and Lesbian Community describes Rainbow Flag as follows:

In 1978, Gilbert Baker of San Francisco designed and made a flag with six stripes representing the six colors of the rainbow as a symbol of gay and lesbian community pride. Slowly the flag took hold, offering a colorful and optimistic alternative to the more common pink triangle symbol. Today it is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers, and is flown in lesbian and gay pride marches worldwide. In 1989, the rainbow flag received nationwide attention after John Stout successfully sued his landlords in West Hollywood, when they prohibited him from displaying the flag from his apartment balcony. Meanwhile, Baker is still in San Francisco, and still making more flags.

The Rainbow Flag by Steven W. Anderson appeared in GAZE Magazine (Minneapolis), #191, on 28 May 1993, p. 25:



Color has long played an important role in our community's expression of pride. In Victorian England, for example, the color green was associated with homosexuality. The color purple (or, more accurately, lavender) became popularized as a symbol for pride in the late 1960s - a frequent post-Stonewall catchword for the gay community was "Purple Power". And, of course, there's the pink triangle. Although it was first used in Nazi Germany to identify gay males in concentration camps, the pink triangle only received widespread use as a gay pop icon in the early 1980s. But the most colorful of our symbols is the Rainbow Flag, and its rainbow of colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple - represents the diversity of our community.

The first Rainbow Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, who created the flag in response to a local activist's call for the need of a community symbol. (This was before the pink triangle was popularly used as a symbol of pride.)

Using the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. According to Baker, those colors represented, respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit. Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself - in the true spirit of Betsy Ross.

Baker soon approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company about mass producing and selling his "gay flag". Unfortunately, Baker had hand-dyed all the colors, and since the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, mass production of his eight-striped version became impossible. The flag was thus reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wishing to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity in the aftermath of this tragedy, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee decided to use Baker's flag. The committee eliminated the indigo stripe so they could divide the colors evenly along the parade route - three colors on one side of the street and three on the other. Soon the six colors were incorporated into a six-striped version that became popularized and that, today, is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

In San Francisco, the Rainbow Flag is everywhere: it can be seen hanging from apartment windows throughout the city (most notably in the Castro district), local bars frequently display the flag, and Rainbow Flag banners are hung from lampposts on Market Street (San Francisco's main avenue) throughout Pride Month. Visiting the city, one can not help but feel a tremendous sense of pride at seeing this powerful symbol displayed so prominently.

Although the Rainbow Flag was initially used as a symbol of pride only in San Francisco, it has received increased visibility in recent years. Today, it is a frequent sight in a number of other cities as well - New York, West Hollywood, and Amsterdam, among them. Even in the Twin Cities, the flag seems to be gaining in popularity. Indeed, the Rainbow Flag reminds us that ours is a diverse community - composed of people with a variety of individual tastes of which we should all be proud.

Sources used for this article were found at Quatrefoil Library in St. Paul, and include: "Vexed by Rainbows", by Paul Zomcheck, in "Bay Area Reporter" (June 26, 1986); "Rainbow Flag" in "The Alyson Almanac" (1989); and "The Rainbow Flag", in "Parade 90: San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade and Celebration" (June 24, 1990).



# Dear Sassy

Have a problem, need an answer? Drop our overly medicated but impeccably dressed *Sassy Sinn* a short but sweet letter with your problem. Answers based on fact, fiction and the alignment of the stars to Uranus. *Sassy* will try to answer your inquiries on sex, relationships, etiquette and fashion tips. *Sassy* however does not assume any responsibility for anything she says. You can write letters, faxes or e-mail *Sassy* at: (403)488-6927 Dear *Sassy*, c/o Times .10 Publications Society 10121 124 Street, Edmonton, Ab., T5N-1P5

#### Dear Sassy,

I have a pet peeve that I'm not quite sure I know how to handle. My peeve is people who bring unwanted menu items to a potluck; for instance, people bringing buns when they confirmed they were bringing dessert. It also pisses me off when people bring friends that were not invited as well as guests who don't show up.

#### Peeved off Hostess with the Mostess

#### Dear Hostess Twinkie,

I'm sure that as any good hostess realizes if you are going to master over such an affair you must expect the unexpected. If you choose to accept this culinary mission, *Sassy* will share her coveted secrets. This manifesto will decompose in 300 years.

\* 4 out of 12 confirmed guests will not show up

\* 4 out of 12 guests will be inconvenienced but will fit your soiree into their hectic schedules; expect these people to appear with foodstuffs purchased en route; usually buns, a cake, or a small platter of nibbley bits

\* 1 out of 12 guests will show up sans chow, but this will be the person who energizes the party as well as the person who usually has the weed

\* 2 out of 12 people will dine and dash

\* your best friend will show up extra early or extra late (or extra loaded)

\* you can usually expect two uninvited guests to appear with invited guests  
\* 4 out of 12 guests will be poorly groomed and probably will clash with your decor  
\* 8 out of 12 guests will hold conversations pertaining to bubble gum music, prime time television, pop culture trends and sex

\* fortunately 4 out 12 guests will interject with such lively topics such as death, religion and toxic landfills

\* of course there are many variations and combinations that will diverge from the afore mentioned list

As a graceful hostess you must always remember that this oleo of personal quirks is what makes for an interesting and intoxicating evening. Welcome each guest cordially and with open arms. It also helps to count down the hours until the vultures vacate. Just smile and nod, you'll learn from your mistakes.

#### Dear Sassy,

My boyfriend has a latex fetish and I am concerned I will look like a whale stuffed into a Glad garbage bag. Any suggestions?

#### Latexphobic

#### Dear Rubber Novice,

Latex is truly one of the greatest miracles of this century. It does amazing things for your body. Rubber up baby!!!

#### Dear Sassy,

I am shy, average looking and I don't like to dress trendy but I don't look like a slob or anything like that. When I go out to the clubs I feel shunned for not looking "in", and I do not feel gladly received. Is there anywhere in this burgh that a person can go and feel relaxed.

#### Odd Duck Out

#### Dear Ducky,

There are way too many bitchy posers out there that exhibit groovy facades to conceal their own shallow insecurities. Please don't take these affronts to heart, these people are legends in their own minds and their opinion is only applicable if you choose to allow it to be. Be strong, be yourself and be unique.

#### Dear Sassy,

I live alone and I think I want a cat, should I get one.

#### Desperately Seeking Pussy

#### Dear Desperado,

I dunno! If you understand what a responsibility having pets can be, than you go girl! Beware though that cats are bitchy, fickle, have claws and if you get an unfixed female she will become more estrous than yourself. This is not a sexist remark, but a facticity proven to me by my little hellions.

**EVM** Edmonton Vocal Minority  
*presents*

 The Alberta Foundation for the Arts

 Alberta Choral Federation

# Boys and Girls With Stories

June 28, 1997

**CJSR**  
**FM**  
**88**

8:00 pm  
Convocation Hall  
University of Alberta

#### Tickets

Regular Price  
\$10 advance  
\$12 door

Low Income  
\$8 advance  
\$12 door

#### Advance Tickets

Athena  
Eaton Centre

The Bagel Tree  
10354 Whyte Avenue

Cook & Gardener Cafe'  
10345-106 Street

The Front Page  
10846 Jasper Avenue

Lyon's Empire  
10121-124 Street

Orlando Books  
10640 Whyte Avenue



# The Addiction Experience

Addiction can only be understood in experiential terms. No biological subsystem describes addiction; no biological indicators detect addiction. People are addicted when they pursue activities relentlessly and sacrifice other life alternatives to this pursuit, and when they cannot face existence without this involvement. We know people are addicted by their behavior and experience: nothing else defines addiction.

Addiction must be understood in relation to an experience. This experience is defined, in part, by the nature of the substance or the involvement. For example, heroin produces an analgesic, depressant, and soporific experience; cocaine and cigarettes create a different variety of drug experience. Gambling produces an experience similar to the stimulant drugs, as does sexual excitement. An insecure love relationship can have elements of both depressant and stimulant experiences — hence its remarkable virulence.

The other elements that determine the addictive potential of an experience are the setting or environment in which it is undertaken, and the characteristics of the individual who undertakes it. This was driven home by the Vietnam experience, in which young men addicted to the pain-relieving experience of heroin in the Vietnam environment rejected the same experience stateside. Only some of these men — those more likely to have had a negative sense of their environment before going to Vietnam — continued to be susceptible to heroin addiction in the States.

The characteristics of an addictive experience (as perceived by a given individual in a specific environment) are as follows:

## The experience is

1. powerful and all-encompassing;



10

2. inspires a sense of well-being, such as through conveying an artificial sense of power or control;
3. is valued because of its predictability and thus its safety;
4. creates negative consequences that diminish the addict's concern for and ability to relate to the rest of life.

When people in given life situations cannot gain a necessary sense of power, control, safety, assurance, and predictability, they turn to and rely on addictive experiences.

## Quotes

"Addiction is a way of coping with life, of artificially attaining feelings and rewards people feel they cannot achieve in any other way. As such, it is no more a treatable medical problem than is unemployment, lack of coping skills, or degraded communities and despairing lives. The only remedy for addiction is for more people to have the resources, values and environments necessary for living productive lives. More treatment will not win our badly misguided war on drugs. It will only distract our attention from the real issues in addiction."

"Cures depend on attitude, not programs," Los Angeles Times, March 14, 1990.

## Substance Abuse in the Gay and Lesbian Community

Alcoholism is a fatal chronic illness affecting the lives of 20 to 30% of the homosexual population (Ziebold & Mongeon, 1982). Studies have found that 35% of lesbians had a history of excessive drinking, compared to only 5% of the heterosexual women in the sample (Saghir, 1970; Lewis, 1982). Approximately 30% of lesbians and gay men are addicted to drugs (Rofes, 1983). The facts show that the homosexual community constitutes a high-risk population with regard to alcoholism and drug abuse.

### Why is addiction such a problem?

It is important not to assume that homosexuality causes drug or alcohol abuse. When gays, lesbians and bisexuals internalize society's homophobic attitudes and beliefs, the results can be devastating. Society's hatred becomes self-hatred. As a minority group, gays, lesbians and bisexuals are victims of systemic and ongoing oppression. It can lead to feelings of alienation, despair, low self-esteem, self-destructive behaviour, and substance abuse (Nicoloff & Stiglitz, 1987). Some gays, lesbians and bisexuals resort to substances as a means to numb the feelings of being different, to relieve emotional pain or to reduce inhibitions about their sexual feelings.

**Substance abuse often begins in early adolescence when youth first begin to struggle with their sexual orientation.** When surrounded by messages telling you are wrong and sick for who you are, eventually you begin to believe it. Having to hide your identity and deal with homophobic comments and attitudes — often made by unknowing friends and family — can have a profound effect on you. Lesbians and gay men are also 7 times more likely to be the victims of crimes than the average citizen (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 1984). In response to this overwhelming oppression and homophobia, many lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals use alcohol and drugs to cope.

Homophobia in our society has limited the opportunities for gays and lesbians to meet each other safely. The gay bar culture emerged as a place to find other gays and lesbians without fear of harassment. The gay bar is a seductive institution. It is the most available place where people can explore being gay and socialize. There is also a lack of alternative alcohol-free places and occasions to socialize within the gay community. This only intensifies the implied connection between drinking and socializing in gay and lesbian social circles.

### Suicide

More gays and lesbians have considered suicide an option than heterosexuals (Bell & Weinberg, 1978). Lesbian and gay youth are 2 to 6 times more likely to attempt suicide than other youth, and may account for 30% of all completed suicides among teens, although they account for only about 10% of teens (Cook, 1991).

### Getting Help

The first step toward getting help is recognizing that your substance abuse is a

problem. This is rarely easy. The following is a list of questions, though not inclusive, that you should ask yourself.

1. Do you feel irritated when other people comment on how much you drink/use drugs?
2. Do you ever drink or use drugs when you are alone?
3. Have you had periods of time while you were drinking or using drugs that you could not remember later?
4. Have you ever had problems with friends, school, or work, or arrested as a result of drinking or using drugs?
5. Have you ever wondered whether you have a drinking or drug problem?

If you think you have a problem there are groups and counselling services available. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) offer self-help groups and can be found in the phone book. Most major cities have gay and lesbian AA and NA groups.

There are also private therapists specializing in alcohol and drug addiction.

The process of recovery allows you to heal by working through those feelings you have pushed down with alcohol and/or drugs. It is often said that when you have a substance abuse problem, your emotional development stops when you start abusing. When you medicate your feelings, you numb yourself from conflicts and reality. Once you decide to no longer abuse, those feelings and emotions will surface and may be overwhelming. Self-help groups offer a safe and supportive environment where people share common experience, strength and hope.

This brochure was written by Dot Wojakowski as part of a Challenge Grant, produced and distributed by McGill Student Health Services.

# Triggers

Your insecurity triggers my insecurity. Your fear makes me fearful. Your anxiety causes my stress level to rise.

Today, you were upset. You argued with every statement I made. You found objections to everything I suggested. You told me, in a dozen ways, that my judgements and opinions were faulty and unworthy of consideration.

I knew that you were upset. I sensed that as soon as we started talking this morning. I tried to be calm and supportive. I used my best techniques to give you the stability you seemed to lack today. I refrained from answering when you shot down my statements. I tried valiantly to keep my own counsel. I failed.

At some point, I became a victim of your anxiety. I quit trying to help you. I started trying to help myself. I got defensive. I became quiet. I began to distrust my own ideas and statements. I started looking to see where I had done something wrong. I fell apart.

My response was to pull into my shell. When I am hurt I pull into my shell, like a turtle, and close all the ports. No one can then hurt me more. I can sit inside myself, completely concealed within my shell, and lick my

wounds. I can feel miserable. I can pout. I can blame.

Now I am peeking out again. The fire has died down. Whatever was bugging you has gone.

I feel shaky, but am starting to think positive again. My withdrawal was caused, not by what you said to me, but by my chatterbox screaming at me.

You are not the cause of my tremors. Your statements were only the trigger that caused my own not-OK-ness to explode.

We are smiling at each other now - both sheepish about our outbursts. We laugh and hug. Without words, we understand what each of us felt and

responded to. Next time, the trigger will be a little harder to pull and we each will be able to accept more of the other's problems without taking them on.

December 1989

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## Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE) Community Calendar

Tel: 403-488-3234 (M-F, 7-10 p.m.) Tel: 403-988-4018 (24 Hr. Info.)

Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m. MEDIA Workshop sponsored by GALA

Wednesday May 7 at 8 p.m. Ferron's "Still Riot" Tour

Friday, May 9 at 8 p.m. An Evening with Suede

Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. Ward 4 Public Meeting

Saturday, May 31 starts at 9 a.m. GLCCE and Pride Committee Garage Sale

Saturday, June 7 at 10 a.m. All day Video Workshop with Jim Alexander

Saturday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. Chris Williamson & Tret Fure

June 21 to 28 Edmonton Pride Week

Saturday, June 21 at 8 p.m. Wominspace Pride Week Dance

Sunday, June 22 Pride Festival Day in Edmonton Meet and Greet and Parade

Thursday, June 26 at 10 p.m. ISCWR fundraiser for GLCCE

### In Announcements:

Saturday, May 31 starts at 9 a.m. GLCCE and Pride Committee Garage Sale

Parking Lot behind GLCCE at 10612 - 124 Street Bake Sale as well!

Want to donate your stuff or baking, then call now. Tel: 403-488-3234

### Movie Nights at GLCCE

Join us for the following movies shown at the Centre every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.

free of charge courtesy of Lyon's Empire, 10121-124 Street...

May 7 - Orlando, May 14 - Desert Hearts, May 21 - The Cure.

Tel: 403-488-3234

### Community Events:

Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m.

MEDIA Workshop sponsored by GALA and Murray Billett. Do you ever want to talk to the media about anything involving our community? Learn the do's and don'ts and how to make the media work for us. Tel: 403-488-3234

Saturday, May 17 at 8 p.m.

Wominspace Dance NEW LOCATION, Hazeldean Hall, 9630 - 66 Avenue

Tix: \$5 Members, \$8 Non-members Tel: 403-482-1794

Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Ward 4 Public Meeting, With Councillor Michael Phair, Councillor Jim Taylor

Mayor Bill Smith, La Cite Francophone, 8527 rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 Street)

Tel: 496-8200

Saturday, May 31 starts at 9 a.m.

GLCCE and Pride Committee Garage Sale, Parking Lot behind GLCCE at 10612 - 124

Street, Bake Sale as well! Want to donate your stuff or baking, then call now!

Tel: 403-488-3234

Saturday, June 7 at 10 a.m.

All day Video Workshop with Jim Alexander who has worked with Shaw Cable for many years.

Learn how to make the most of your videocam or someone else's so you can do a better job of videoing community events etc. and tips making them useful from an archival point of view. Tel: 403-488-3234

Saturday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Chris Williamson & Tret Fure, Celebrating the Release of their new CD

"Between the Covers" at the Provincial Museum. Opening act: Cori Brewster

Tickets \$20 advance at Orlando Books and \$25 at the door

Tel: 403-432-7633

June 21 to 28

Edmonton Pride Week, The Theme is "Celebrate our Diversity and Pride!"

Saturday, June 21 at 8 p.m.

Wominspace Pride Week Dance, co-hosted with GLCCE, Bonnie Doon Community

Centre, 9240 - 93 Street, Tix: \$5 Members, \$8 Non-members

Tel: 403-482-1794

Sunday, June 22

Pride Festival Day in Edmonton, Meet and Greet Parade

Both events are at MacIntyre Park, better known as Gazebo Park in Old Strathcona

PFLAG After Parade Picnic Times and Locations to be determined. E-mail:

Tel: 403-488-3234

Thursday, June 26 at 10 p.m., ISCWR fundraiser for GLCCE at Boots and Saddle Lounge. The show is "Songs of Freedom and Protest" with music from the 60's (Peter, Paul, and Mary; Joan Biaz, etc.)

Tel: 403-488-3234

Saturday, June 28 at 8 p.m.

Decades of Pride

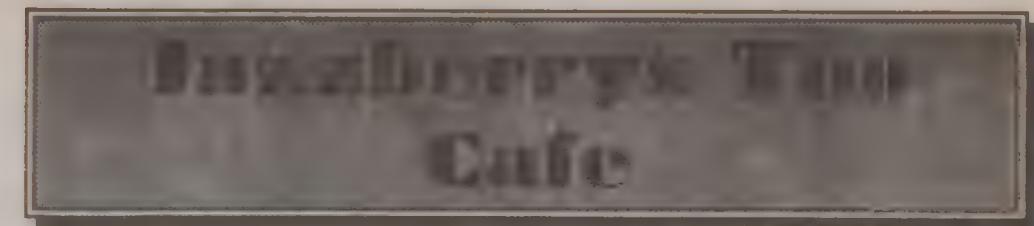
Edmonton Vocal Minority Concert

Convocation Hall, University of Alberta

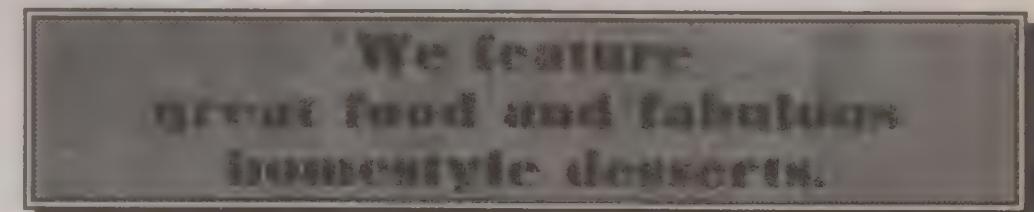
Tix in advance: \$10 regular; \$8 low income; \$5 children Tix

at the door: All tickets are \$12 E-mail:

Tel: 403-988-4620

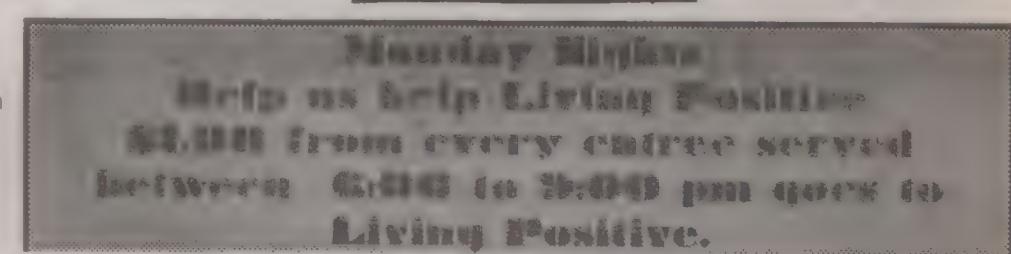


**A "Community" cafe where everyone is welcome  
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Monday thru Wednesday 10:00am to 11:00pm  
Thursday thru Saturday: 10:00am to Midnight.**

**10116 - 124 Street Phone: 403-488-1829**

# Our SUPPORT Groups & Services

## AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Network retains its original operating philosophy: to provide support and education wherever it can be helpful in north-central Alberta. AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides: Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network call 488-5742

## Alcoholics Anonymous

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

## AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

## Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturalist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

## Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 454-1479 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

## Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay, lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

## Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers. Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426-7019.

## Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit

of unity and pride in the lesbigay community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620.

## Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

## Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

We have 3 divisions: 1) Fun/Recreational - Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; No regular commitment needed; Now until end of June you can join anytime. Fee: \$10.00/year. Level: Beginners to Intermediate: Donnan School - 79 Ave & 87 Street. 2) Competitive - Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m.; Fee \$35/8 week period; Coaching & Games each night. 3) Beach - Day/time/cost TBA; June to September. For more Volleyball information call Ron at 428-3375.

## Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234

## Gaylines

A special telephone service is available. The intent of this line is to aid in the forming of a central information net that will aid all walks of life. Messages are outgoing only. The line is setup in a single location that will be permanent and will also be listed in the phone directory. It is free to all Alternative Lifestyles, Support groups, Clubs, Individuals and Businesses. Call 486-9661 to request your mailbox.

## Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities contact Kirk at 488-5742, or call our Hotline at 988-3671.

## Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

## Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. Our main goal is to provide a safe, discreet and friendly atmosphere where we can socialize as a group. We also provide information and peer support for members. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club, Box 33002, Glenwood P.O., Edmonton, AB T5P 4V8; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person or 486-9661 box 1 to leave a message.

## Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for

charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Wednesday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots and Saddle or the Roost. You may also call Gaylines at 486-9661 and press box 27. <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

## Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information

## Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p.m.

## Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993 Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community for met a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info call Edmonton Police Service at 424-7248 (page 293) or Murray Billet at 482-7421

## Lipstick Lesbian Youth Peer Support

This is an organization intended to allow all femme lesbians and bisexuals the chance to meet and realize that they are not alone. Our goal is not to segregate the lesbian community, but to acknowledge that femmes do exist. This is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other femmes. Please call 988-4836 for more information.

## Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

## Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthcon@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information.

## Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strive to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to

heighten awareness. Northern chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM

## Northern Titans

Northern Titans is the Gay and Lesbian bowling league in Edmonton. You are welcome to join either as a team member or a drop in. There is a \$12.00 charge for shoes and three games. The 96/97 bowling season starts in September. Call 454-1458 for info.

## Out and Out (O<sup>2</sup>)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbigay Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O Hotline is 988-3132 for activity info., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People..

## OUTreach

OUTreach is a university based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166.

## PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394, Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs. 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a day)

## Pink Triangle Youth of Edmonton (P.T.Y.E.)

The Pink Triangle Youth Group is a program offered by the Community Centre. The youth group exists so that young people age 16 to 21 - lesbians, gays, bisexuals and those wondering about their sexuality can explore their feelings, meet other young people like themselves. Information is available to all along with fun in a safe, supportive environment. Phone 906-6221 for more information about the Youth Group.

## S.O.L.O.

Social Organization for Lesbians Only is a group that gets together for fun and recreation. Lesbians over 18 are welcome to join in for weekend functions and entertainment. We combine friendship, companionship and support with singles and couples welcome. Call Linda at 447-4776 for more information

## Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton call 482-2789

## Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

## Wominspace

The purpose of Wominspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among ourselves and the larger community. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information call the Lesbian Life at 425-0511.

# What is Cafe de Ville?

For those who care to admit their age, years ago it

was the Just Beans and Barley owned by Bob Powell. His sister Nancy who worked for him and went on to form Grace Under Pressure, still works for us. Linda Elder, also from Grace Under Pressure, worked for us, and is now a back-up singer for Jan Arden.

The establishment was then turned into Swallows, then became another restaurant (don't know the name). Then there was a fire and the restaurant was rebuilt as Cafe de Ville about seven years ago.

Robb Allen who is the chef with Michael Schreiner (the one that used to be on Access Network, did the sign off tucking the province into bed at night) bought the restaurant in September 1994. After a few months of a shaky start, business had begun to slack off before we bought it. Now has become quite a



success, because Robb is a brilliant chef, but also because Michael has a wonderful style as the feature host.

In the process of developing the business we kept the same concept, as it had been popular, if not busy, but just took it further. We added new chairs, repainted, and built a deck, but we did not want the packaged look that so many super designed restaurants have. We chose to keep it eclectic, personal, and comfortable by playing subtle jazz music to entice conversation and have been rotating works of art from the Vanderleelie Gallery.

People have asked me to describe the revamped menu and my answer is "Continental cuisine", whatever that means. Our menu consists of quintessential salads like the Caesar salad to the more exotic Poached Salmon Salad. Fondue, Bouillabaisse, baked brie, gourmet pizza, steak and lamb as well as an extensive array of pastas including the vegetarian, veal and seafood cap off the menu. Known for our bread, we make them here, we also create our own desserts. Try one, they are dazzling.

The Citadel presents

## Christopher Peterson in **EYECONS**

*Canada's foremost female impersonator in his hilarious one man, many women extravaganza!*

Drag has gone mainstream  
A Limited Engagement!

June 10 - 22

425-1820



The Citadel



Conrad's

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**10724 - 124 STREET PHONE 451-1038**

# My Child is GAY! Now What Do I Do?

by Scott Bidstrup

## What is happening to me? And to my Child?

What's happening is that you're finding out something very important about who your child is, and your child has revealed something very important to you about who he or she is. This can be a shattering experience for a parent, or it can be a growing experience. It depends on you.

There are some definite stages to the process you have embarked upon, whether willingly or not. They involve learning and growing. Sometimes it will be painful, sometimes joyful. What you get out of it depends on what you're willing to put into it, and how open you can hold your mind.

Some parents hold their prejudices more dearly than their children and actually reject their children outright, and simply disown them and throw them out on the street. You probably haven't done that, or you wouldn't be reading this. Right there, that puts you statistically ahead of fully one fourth of parents of gay children.

Now if you want make the best of this and know what sort of things you are going to go through as a parent of a gay child, read this letter from Jim Lokken to learn a little more about the process and what you'll learn.

## Why did my child have to tell me?

Your child wants to be honest with you. Trying to pretend to be something he or she is not, is a tremendous burden, one that carries with it a great deal of guilt and shame. You've tried to teach your child honesty, and now your child has shown that he or she loves you enough to be honest with you about who he or she is, even at great personal risk of rejection. In making this revelation, your child has lifted a great burden of guilt

and shame from his or her shoulders, and you need to understand what a great relief it is to not have to lie about who you are.

As a parent, you doubtlessly value honesty in your child a great deal. It is a mark of his or her character. And the fact that your child has entrusted you with this information is an indication that your efforts in teaching him or her honesty and integrity have paid off.

While this is undeniably a great burden for you, it is also an opportunity. The opportunity lies in the fact that you now know your child better than you ever did, and so this situation affords you the opportunity to get closer to your child than you have ever been. If you can be honest with your child about your own feelings, and how you love him or her in spite of this revelation, you can use this situation to draw closer to your child and become more important to him or her than you have ever been. Isn't this what you want as a parent?

## Is it my fault?

Wondering if you did something wrong? Wondering if there is something you didn't do right? Why has this happened to you? Don't feel guilty. You didn't do anything wrong. Chances are you're a wonderful parent, and your gay child is going to be a wonderful adult like yourself. Your gay or transgendered child isn't that way because of anything you did, nor anything anyone else did, for that matter.

As science learns more about the origins of homosexuality and transgenderism, it is becoming increasingly clear that these orientations have their origins very early in life. Most gay men and a large number of lesbians will tell you that they knew early in life, in some cases, awareness of being "different" are among the earliest memories. Some evidence even indicates prenatal influences, even genetic patterns are involved.

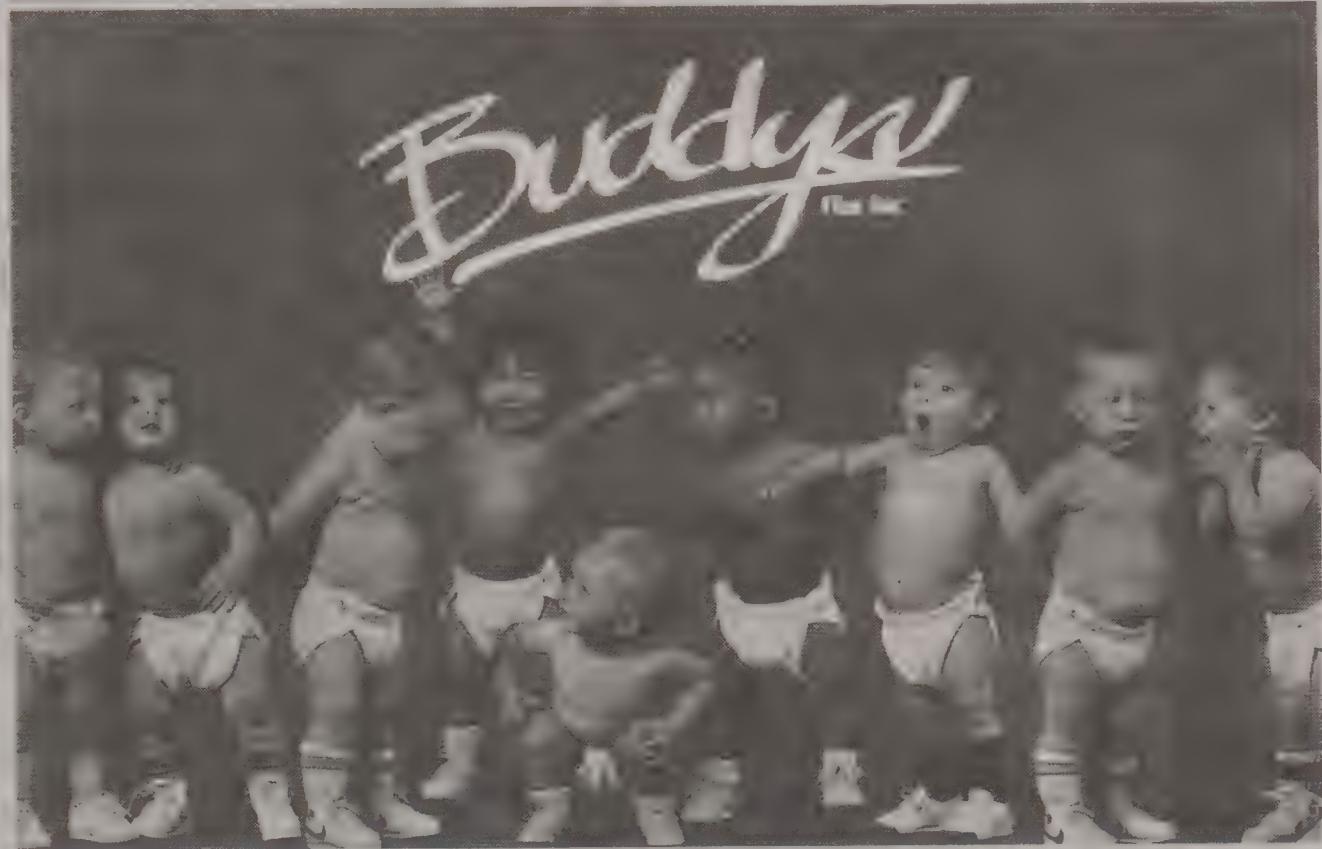
The most important emotional contribution any parent can make to their children's lives is to love them. Like most parents, you've done that, and continue to do so, or you wouldn't be here reading this. And now that you know about your child's orientation, they need your love and support more than ever. That's what this web page is all about — helping you love your child and giving him or her the support he or she needs.

## Who recruited my kid?

Nobody. Your child was gay from a surprisingly young age, and never made a conscious choice to be gay, so no-one could have recruited him or her. It's tempting to go looking for scapegoats. This is a deeply emotional issue for parents, and one that brings out all the protective instincts in good parents. It is impossible for anyone to recruit anybody to "be

Continued on page 18

## Edmontons Adult Playground is One Year Fresh



**Friday May 30**  
2 HOT 2 HANDLE  
Male Strippers  
Door Prizes  
&  
Draws  
G.M.O.C. w/party Favors

**Saturday May 31**  
THE BIG EVENT  
SURPRISE  
Just be There  
Free Food  
Free Pool  
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Free Jukebox

**Sunday June 1**  
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Show  
&  
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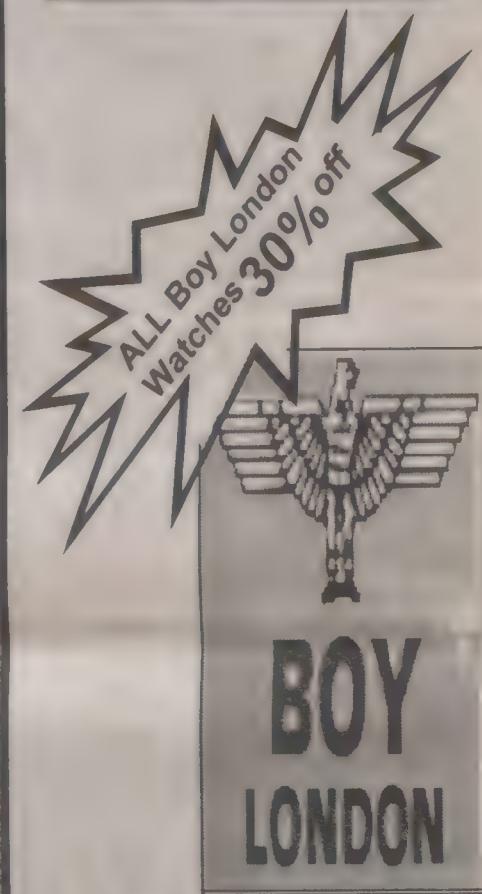
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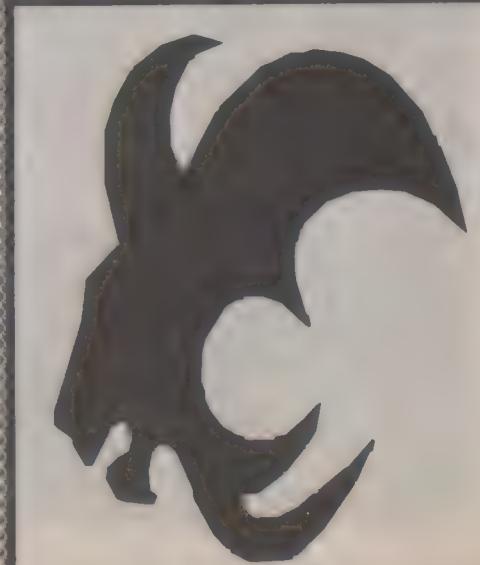


Theatre Show Times:  
1, 3, 5 & 7p.m.

Store hours:  
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# LYON'S EMPIRE

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488-6915



## My Child is Gay, Now What Do I Do

Continued from page 16

gay." The reason for this is simple — being gay isn't a choice anyone consciously makes. Dr. Jack Weinberg, president of the American Psychiatric Association, said in a public statement on October 6, 1977, that fears of "catching" homosexuality or being "recruited" at school or elsewhere are "... utterly without scientific foundation."

Stop and ask yourself — when did you make a conscious decision to be heterosexual? To be attracted to only persons of the opposite sex? Of course you never did.

Can you pick and choose who excites you physically? Of course you can't. And neither can your child. Since he or she can't consciously decide who to be attracted to, being told that attractions to the same sex are wrong or evil can really be painful, because he or she can't prevent those feelings. They just happen. Over time, that guilt, fear and anger can build to create depression to the point of suicide. As a parent, you need to be sensitive to the feelings of guilt and fear. Your child is gay not because of anything you or anyone else did. While science can't explain precisely what causes homosexuality, leading researchers in the field have shown that both genetics and environmental influences play a part.

### *Gay people in the bible*

Gay people see themselves portrayed positively in several places in the bible. In the Old Testament, the entire book of

Ruth is one of the most beautiful stories of love between two women that has ever been written. How ironic it is that many passages from this beautiful scripture have been used over the years in heterosexual marriage ceremonies!

The story of David and Johnathan in the book of I Samuel is also a beautiful gay love story (I Samuel 19:1 through 23:29). In it, each shows the commitment and sacrifice for each other that every gay couple has experienced and can instantly recognize.

Even Jesus was unquestionably aware of homosexuality, and yet there is no record that he ever condemned it. In at least one instance, he praised the faith of a gay man! In the original Greek version of the beautiful story of Jesus healing the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:2-10), the words used to describe the centurion's companion isn't "servant" at all. They translate accurately as "beloved boy," a phrase that clearly connotes the common practice at the time of older gay men or gay men in positions of authority keeping younger men as their lovers and partners.

### *What on earth is going on in my child's mind?*

If your child came out to you voluntarily, it might surprise you to learn some of the matters your child considered before coming out to you. If you'd like to understand some of the questions your child asked him/herself, read Justin's Letter to a Friend. It is a really touching letter written by a gay youth to a friend to help him understand who he is. If your child came out voluntarily, your child had a lot to consider before coming out to you. If you'd like to gain some insight into what your child was considering, read What You Should Know Before You Come Out To Your Parents, a brochure written by the parents of gay children who have already been where you are now.

It is vitally important that you assure your child that he/she will not be disowned or dispossessed by you, because your child is more important to you than your fears or prejudices could ever be. Make this clear — and give him or her a hug! Let them know you still love him or her as much as ever!

### *My child couldn't possibly be gay. He doesn't fit the image!*

Don't count on it. You'd be surprised at who's gay! It's a common saying in the gay community that if all the faces of gays in church on Sunday suddenly turned purple, you'd be amazed at all the purple faces around you! On and off the pulpit! People you never suspect — accountants, welders, doctors, mechanics, lawyers and even politicians!

Many gay people live "in the closet" all their lives and never tell anyone except their lovers. What a tragedy! Their families never know them, their co-workers and colleagues never really get to know who they are. Friendships are based on a lie. Trust and acceptance are a function of deceit.

### *Does this mean my child is going to be wildly flamboyant, offending everyone I know?*

Not necessarily. The vast majority of gay persons live lives indistinguishable from anyone else except for who they come home to. Learn here about their lives. Even if your child is flamboyant, don't you still love him or her? Of course you do.

Diversity is what flavors our culture and gives it richness and beauty. Your gay child may or may not be flamboyant, screaming to the world about what makes him/her different. Of course you wouldn't want to dress or behave like that, but your child is a sovereign person

who has the right to express him/herself. As a parent, sometimes you just have to step aside and let them do "their own thing." As long as no one else gets hurt...

The point is, that whatever your child is now, don't expect that to change. Your child is the same person he or she always was, and your new understanding of him or her won't change that. If you are a good parent, however, your understanding of your child's sexual orientation should actually help improve your relationship to each other and closeness as a family. Whether that happens or not depends on you. This new revelation can be a starting point for a whole new level of parent child interaction and closeness, or it can be a point of contention and argument. It all depends on how accepting you choose to be.

### *I'm desperate to talk to somebody!*

You're in luck! There is a wonderful, loving support organization for people in just your situation, and there's most likely a chapter near you. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, known as PFLAG, is an organization that was put together by parents who have been through what you are going through, for the purpose of supporting parents and family members in just your situation. Here is a list of local PFLAG chapters numbering nearly 400 at last count, so there's probably one near you. Give it a try!

Comments to: [bidstrup@pe.net](mailto:bidstrup@pe.net)  
My Child is Gay! Now what Do I Do!  
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## New Prom King & Queen

Well, another year has come and gone and the Roost said good-bye to Prom King X "Christine" and Prom Queen X "Sticky Vicky". Actually, no one would ever want to say good-bye to Sticky, things just wouldn't be the same. Especially all of those flips, stumbles, slips and falls while performing!

On Saturday, April 12, to a full house, Miss Weena Luv and Vancouver's Kristy Krunt hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Prom King and Queen Pageant at the Roost. The show ended shortly after midnight (closer to 1 am) when the new King and Queen were crowned with decorated ice cream buckets and a sash. Cheers go to:

**Prom King XI - Theresa**  
**Prom Queen XI - Bobrah**

We wish to thank all the other candidates, Vanity, Garry, Terrance for your efforts. They will not be forgotten. And thanks to the terrific audience who showed lots of support and kept with the show right up until the final act. Your terrific.

Love Always  
Prom Queen X  
Sticky Vicky



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# From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly



It appears that something is going around in the air as we come to the close of the 90's. Too many people seem to think that everyone else is to blame for all of their

**problems. So much easier to blame someone else than look into oneself and find the solution.**

Perhaps it is a lack of faith in something greater than oneself that makes this thing gain such approval. You know the story of the person who really believes that the universe is revolving around themselves. The fact of the matter is that life will go on within us or without us. We are a mere speck in the sands of time. Perhaps we have missed the point over the past decade, when we found that respect could be purchased rather than gained. It was so easy to respect a person, place or thing just because it was there. Not that it symbolized something remarkable in the world in which we live. Then there is that old cliche that "truth will set us free".

Someone forgot the second part of that saying in that we must

**be truthful first, and then, we will be set free.** That of course gets back to some basic honesty about ourselves and the way we treat others. Do we truly believe that we can set about to use someone or someplace as a target for our anger, and not have it backfire on us? There is one ingredient that could help us move forward, and that ingredient is integrity. Once we have made the commitment to do something we put ourselves into it, and get the job done! No excuses, no exceptions, no lies, no dishonesty, and some true integrity. Putting things in the proper order will also help us as we move forward into our future. If we are playing a game of who is on first then we better ask who is on second. But those of us who can play with words can simply ask if who is one first than how can who also be on second. **Would it not be better if we all played on the same team and did our very best to make certain that everyone felt at home?**

If we enter this new reality with honesty, integrity in our hearts everyone will gain respect as a team. It is great fun being a cheerleader too. We are covering a lot of pride issues in Volume 4, Number 4. We are now just two issues away from our fifth year of celebrating the real life and time of gays and lesbians in Edmonton. Actually, we are only one issue away, we miscounted back near the second year. Just like us to be human and make such a mistake. Please forgive us for that and all the typos over the years. Being non-profit has its advantages and

disadvantages. The greatest advantage is getting a chance to meet so many active people in our city. People truly doing things to make life better for all of us. When word went out that we were a little strapped at the last minute you came from every direction to offer help with this issue. That's special!! And did we ever have fun taking pictures at some of the events that went on around the city. Gosh the film was just flying all over the place and we almost got soaked on one occasion. This has turned out to be one of the best issues we have put our hearts into. Hope you will enjoy it and get out and enjoy some of the activities planned over the next two months.

Here are some simple words to hold onto, if you wish.

"Well truth is my addiction  
stranger still than fiction  
Wider than the sky

With no more alibis  
When we tell each other  
No more lies.... (hayward)



## "LITTLE BY LITTLE?"

by Michael Phair

The big NEWS of course is that Ellen Degeneres is 'coming out' on prime time TV! Although this is big news and it is important, I think that most positive changes and progress in society towards lesbians and gays, especially in Edmonton, happen little by little, one step at a time because of the determined work of individuals or organizations.

In April, for the first time in its 20 year history the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Edmonton (GLCCE) received a grant from the City of Edmonton that will help pay its

expenses. Although it was not a large grant it was judged against all the other requests that the city receives and the awarding of the grant recognizes the valued work that GLCCE does for our community. It happened this year because the current leadership at GLCCE convinced the City that the organization was well-run, volunteer driven, provided services to the gay and lesbian community that no one else provides and that the grant would benefit the citizens of Edmonton. A little step, unheralded, recognizing and supportive of gay and lesbian citizens!

'Ms. T' has taken on Stockwell Day and the Provincial Government over the last couple of months. As a foster parent for over 15 years 'Ms. T' politely asked and then demanded to know why she was no longer receiving children to foster in her home. It seems that the then Minister of Family and Social Services, Stockwell Day discovered that 'Ms. T' was a lesbian and wrote her indicating that fostering was restricted to "traditional families" and thus she was no longer eligible! Courageously 'Ms. T' decided that she would not accept this and has taken the case to the media and to lawyers for assistance. **This story is not over but once again the courage of an individual is taking us one step forward by demanding treatment as equal people in Edmonton (and all of Alberta).**

I know that many Times 10 readers were at the Jubilee Auditorium on April 11 or 12 to watch the Alberta Ballet perform to Mozart's Requiem. Joining the Ballet on stage were nearly 90 members of the Edmonton Vocal Minority chorus singing their hearts and lungs out before over 2000 people each night. And the Ballet's written program said that the EVM was "Edmonton's lesbigay chorus" and told of the 1998 lesbigay choral festival in Edmonton! It was a proud moment and another step forward. It is virtually impossible for me to imagine such an event or statement in Edmonton 10 years ago.

In their own way each of these three events represent progress made, one step at a time here in Edmonton. These may not be as glamorous or big as Ellen Degeneres on national TV but each of these are about people that we know right here at home. And there is more to come! It will be Pride Week here in Edmonton quite soon. Among the many events will be a parade of celebration on Whyte Avenue on Sunday June 22. Here is a great opportunity for each and every one of us to take a few more 'little steps' on the streets of Edmonton proclaiming our place in this city. Join me. It will be fun. It will be a celebration. It is another little step forward.

Please contact Councillor Michael Phair as follows: Phone (496-8146), Fax (496-8113), E-mail (maphair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca).

# Hi from your 1997 Pride Festival Committee:

The mystery about Pride Festival Week is over. We have had several meetings to sort things out.

At this time we have established:

-the theme is to Celebrate our Diversity and Pride.

If this makes a political statement to anyone so be it.

-male co-chair of the 1997 Pride Committee is Fred Dicker

-female co-chair of the 1997 Pride Committee is Roz Ostendorf

-June 21, 1997, Wominspace Dance co-hosted with GLCCE @ 8 PM at Hazeldean

Community Hall, 9630-66th Avenue

-June 28, 1997, Edmonton Vocal Minority Concert @ 8 PM at Convocation Hall

-June 22, 1997 Pride Festival Day in Edmonton

-Meet and Greet at MacIntyre Park better known as Gazebo Park in Old Strathcona on

Pride Festival Day.

-A Parade will assemble at Gazebo Park

-PFLAG will hold their after parade picnic complete with other activities at a yet to be established location.

We need feedback from you ASAP in several areas:

1. We would love to see everyone at the parade/ picnic this year. It strengthens us as a community to see many of us gathered in one place, and it strengthens us as individuals to be in a close supportive family

environment. Please feel free to wear a mask if you are not very comfortable, or blend into the crowd, or carry a banner/flag. Come alone or come in a group. Bring a car or a float. However you choose to participate, you will find it an empowering experience. Please do share your thoughts with us.

2. How do you want to participate in the picnic/ festival; provide and staff an information, recreational or commercial booth or table; challenge someone to a

sporting activity like football, a three legged race or chess? or just be there.

3. Are there any events that you are planning or aware of during or around Pride Week. Please let us know so we can help publicize for you.

4. We will be sending a letter to many politicians, businesses, and individuals asking for their support for our Pride Festival Activities.

5. Can you provide any nominations for the Pride Awards. Attached sheet

6. Can you talk about Pride Festival Week to everyone you see!

Contact your Pride Committee so 1997 can be our Proudest year ever.

Fred Dicker - 469-7231 (daytime is best)

Roz Ostendorf - 482-1794

e-mail - fdicker@compusmart.ab.ca

FAX number 440-3347 (voice phone first)

MAIL- 1997 Pride Committee, Box 1852 Main Post

Office, Edmonton T5J 2P2

Thank you: Fred Dicker Roz Ostendorf

## PRIDE AWARDS

The Edmonton Pride Awards have been established to recognize specific individual or group contributions that have positively effected the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual and Transgendered community at large. The awards are broken down into two categories with separate criteria for each. The first category is for individual achievement called the Michael Phair Award and Maureen Irwin Award for one male and one female award annually. The second category is a limited number of awards to recognize individual as well as group or event achievement.

AWARD CRITERIA: Michael Phair and Maureen Irwin Award

These two separate awards recognize individual long term contributions of a lesbian and of a gay man. The criteria has been broken down into four separate weighted categories. A submitted individual's achievements are "scored" within this form resulting in two recipients of the current year's awards. The criteria are as follows:

1. LEVEL OF "OUTNESS"

The level a person identifies themselves, both privately and publicly, to the gay and lesbian community.

### 2. LONG TERM COMMITMENT

The length of time of an individual's commitment to the community.

### 3. BREADTH OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Weight of the full range of activities and initiatives over a period of years. Both volunteer and paid service being recognized but with emphasis on the volunteer service.

### 4. PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

The individual must have exhibited within the community- leadership, honesty, and integrity

### AWARD CRITERIA: Pride Certificates

The Pride Certificates will recognize special contribution (specific vs long term) to the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual and Transgendered community.

Individuals, groups, or specific events are eligible for these certificates. Both current as well as historical will be considered.

The selection committee for each year's awards will consist of: the co-chairs of the Pride Committee (x2); the recipients of the Phair/Irwin Awards from the past 2 years (x4) and an individual invited by the Pride Committee (x1) for a total of seven people.

If you have a nomination, please submit it to the 1997 Pride Committee as soon as possible. There is no form to fill out but we need to know who the nomination is coming from and a biography or explanation supporting your nomination. Mail it, FAX it, e-mail it or hand deliver it to GLCCE.

Contact your Pride Committee so 1997 can be our Proudest year ever.

Fred Dicker - 469-7231 (daytime is best)

Roz Ostendorf - 482-1794

e-mail - fdicker@compusmart.ab.ca

FAX number 440-3347 (voice phone first)

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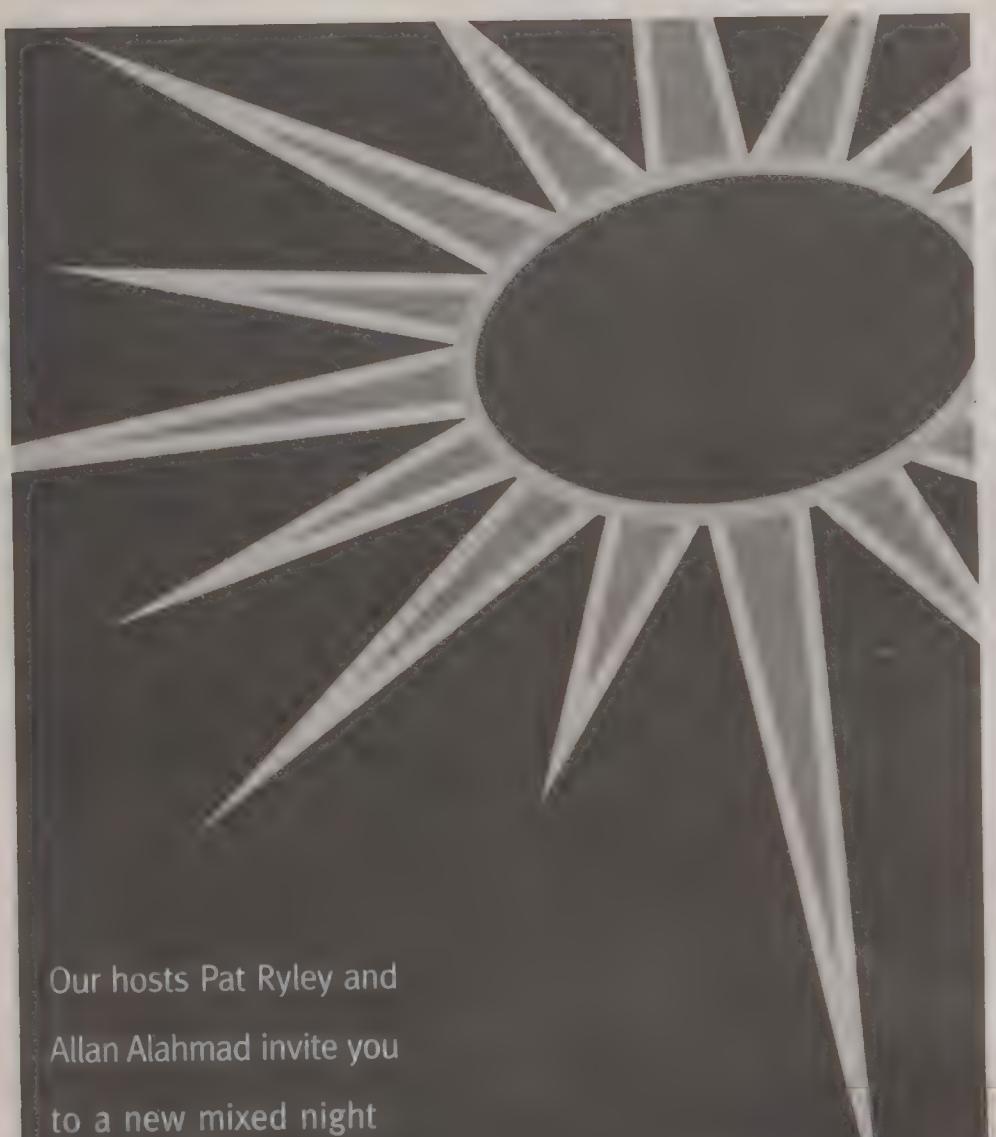
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## Here is our list of confirmed Court Events for May

May is Pink Ribbon Campaign month for breast cancer awareness. Elegant pink ribbon pins will be available to all bars and court members for a \$5.00 donation for the month of May

May also is the kickoff of lucky draw and a chance to win a trip for two to Las Vegas. tickets are only \$2.00 each and will be drawn on August 23, 1997 at the Ball... held at the Howard Johnston..

To all members or members to be of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose applications for the position of Empress and Emperor will be available July 5 at Buddy's, Boots and Saddle, the Roost, and G.L.C.C.E. Deadline to submit applications is August 1, 1997. Any inquiries call 486-966 box 26 and leave a message we'll be back to you quick.

Also applications to the John M. Kerr scholarships will be available at the same time and places. This scholarships are open to all attending post secondary education, collages and university.

### Shows

May 7

Pink Ribbon kick off party singer "Ferron" at the provincial museum later that night show at the Roost 11pm, raffles!!

May 9

Pink Ribbon fundraiser Shakespear's drink specials from 11 to 12, raffles and shooters bring your suede concert stubs and get in for \$1

May 18

Cut-a-Thon and beer bash!!! the Roost raffles!! and prizes

May 20

Pink Ribbon fundraiser Buddy's Pub

May 22

Roost....we all got them. The Roost show at 11pm raffles !!!

May 24

On the road to Monte Carlo, a French cabaret Buddy's Pub show at 11pm raffles, shooters, and a very unusual show!!

for the month of June call 486-9661 box 27 for show info!!

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SPONSORS WHO MAKE TIMES  
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IS A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY  
NOW ENTERING ITS' FIFTH  
YEAR OF PUBLISHING.**

# A Voice From GLCCE

By Fred Dicker



Our Annual General Meeting has come and gone. We now have 12 board members with a good mix of members from the last board with new members. We are looking forward to a very good year utilizing all the skills, talents and diversity on our board. We are not looking at focusing our energies into any new areas but to continue to improve what we are.

Our library is getting a lot of attention to organize what is already there. We will soon be offering videos and CDs for loan as well. Any donations to our library would be much appreciated.

Our program of Wednesday Night movies has been very successful. Our last scheduled night will be May 21. We will

re-start movie nights after Labour Day weekend. Any suggestions of titles you might have for movies with a community theme for the fall then please give us a call.

More and more community groups are finding the Centre ideal for meetings etc. and this is great because that is what your Centre is there for.

We have two courses that have recently been completed. The Coming Out course for Lesbians was a great success. The Peer Counselling course is now graduating and providing the Centre with new and enthusiastic counselors. Both courses will be repeated in the fall so call us if you are interested.

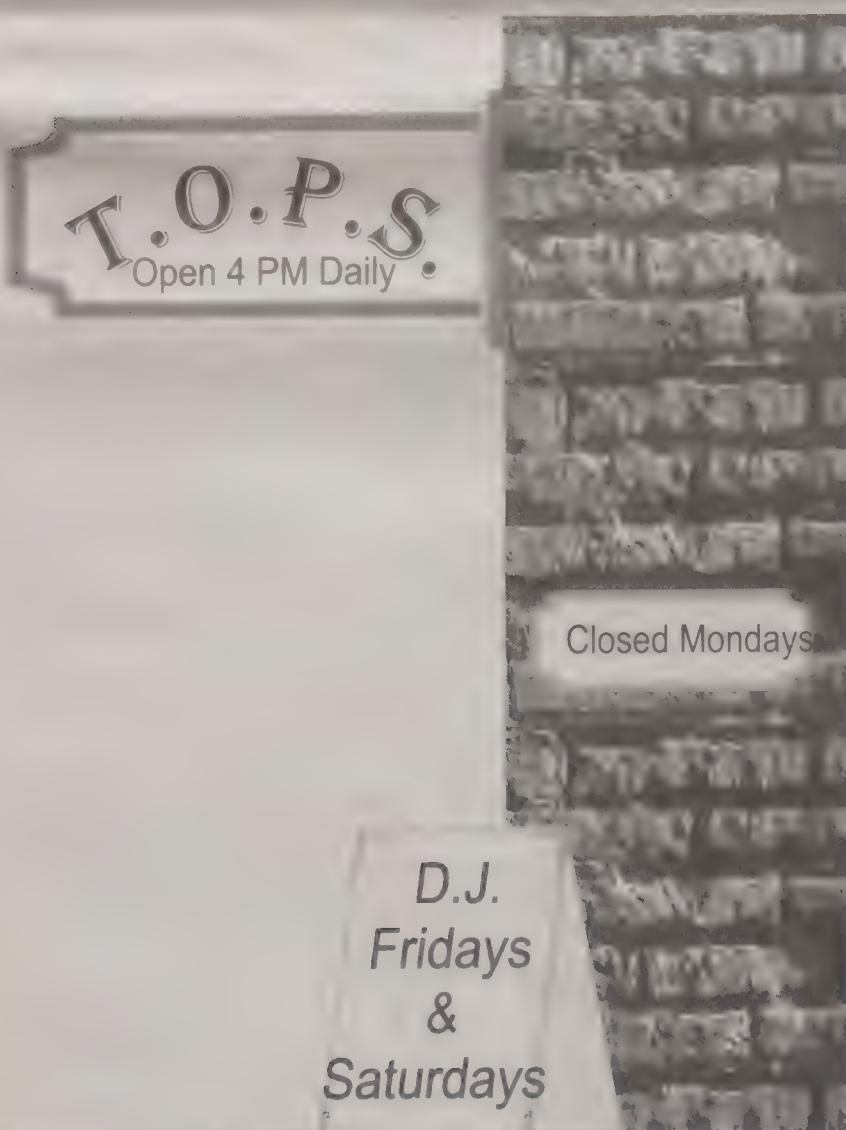
We will be putting a lot of energy towards volunteer training and organization so the Centers overall staffing will continue to improve. Our goal is to have a Centre with a

continually improving level of comfort and importance to all members of our community from those just barely maybe "out" to long time members and therefore ever increasing use.

Feel free to talk to any member of the Board of Directors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton:

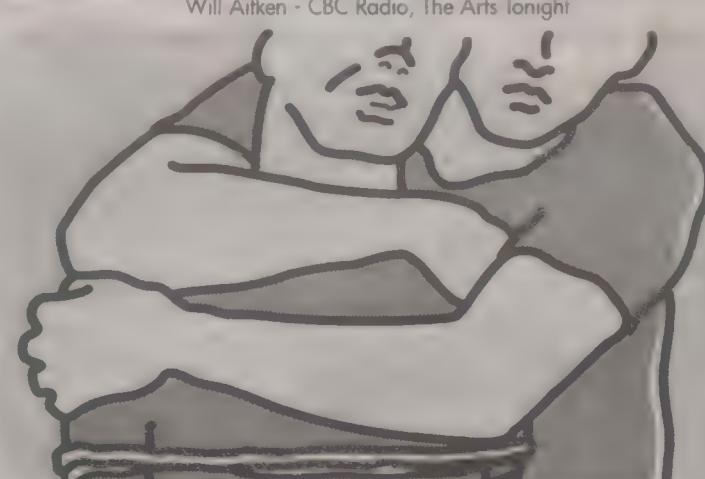
Fred Dicker - Male co-chair  
Lynne Barbeau - Female co-chair  
Bob Thompson - Secretary  
Rachael Carmina - Treasurer  
Roxanne Hurd- Pride  
Rob Wells  
Geoff Williams  
Ron Rowswell  
Rob Cey  
Edward Sandberg  
Kirk Starkie  
Diane Hall

Be Kind  
to  
Your Self  
Support  
Your  
Community  
Centre



**"STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART"**  
John Dippong - Vancouver International Film Festival

**"A REFRESHING DEADPAN WIT"**  
Will Aitken - CBC Radio, The Arts Tonight



**L'ESCORTE**  
A FILM BY DENIS LANGLOIS

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# Paul is Dead

Let it be recorded that on October 9, 1986, my friend Paul of Brooklyn, NY, died of AIDS, in a New York hospital, alone. There will be no memorial service. He is survived by his parents, who could not bear to be with him as he died. His personal effects are being distributed by his landlord.

He was a beautiful person, with a beautiful soul, and I am grieved by his passing. My mind screams at those who once loved him and then abandoned him.

So that his death will not simply be another statistic in the grim tally, I am writing these words to share with you. Read them. Acknowledge that a person of great worth has passed. Weep with me for him. Weep with me for all of us.

I heard his clear tenor voice singing some Broadway tune, accompanied by a fluid and lilting piano. I sat where I could watch him play while he sang. His beautiful piano harmonies and voice blended together to make an unforgettable song. I resented the talking and laughing being done by the other patrons of the bar. I wanted them to listen.

At the end of each song, I applauded lustily trying to draw the others into the acknowledgement of the beauty of his music. When his set was finished, he passed by my table and I offered to buy him a drink. I stayed through several sets that evening and promised to come back often during the two weeks that he was in town.

Later in the summer he returned from another two week engagement and we renewed our friendship. He told me that he had a degree in classical organ performance from Indiana University, was from a small town in Indiana, was playing this bar circuit to save enough money to get to New York where he wanted to write music, and that he would love to go sailing with me.

The day we chose to go sailing was warm and sunny. My sailboat was only 8 feet long, barely big enough

for one person let alone two, and of the type which one sat upon, not in. It was really funny to see his 6'2" frame spread out across the deck of my miniature boat.

As we sailed that day, we unfolded parts of our lives to one another and shared thoughts usually reserved for old friends or lovers. A bond of friendship and caring was forged between us that day.

Later Paul moved on to another part of the country and I lost track of him for several years. When he contacted me again, he had made it to New York. He was writing music, was coaching a singer, and was preparing a demonstration tape. He was also teaching school in order to support himself.

The following summer he and his lover came to spend a weekend with me and we did some more sailing. My boat had increased in size and we laughed about its comparative luxury. When he and his lover arrived Thursday evening, they were still operating on New York time. By the time they left on Sunday, the boat and water had worked their magic, so both Michael and Paul were very relaxed and laid back.

Much time passed. Michael was gravely ill with AIDS. His parents would not come to see him, neither did they want him to come home. Paul cared for him through incredible illnesses for nearly two years before he died.

Several more months passed. I took my youngest son to New York for the weekend and we stayed overnight with Paul in his Brooklyn apartment. All night long the trucks rattled and banged along the pothole-filled streets that all seemed to converge on Paul's apartment. In the morning, my son said it sounded as though garbage cans straighteners had been out working all night long.

Paul told me then that he had some blood abnormalities which might be the beginnings of AIDS.

Last winter, Paul called to say that his AIDS had been confirmed. He was still working but had had to give up his music students and any hope of writing new music. We were both mightily discouraged.

Over the following months we increased the frequency of our telephone calls. Paul became part of an experimental study group using some of the new drugs which were available for treating AIDS. He had one bout with Pneumocystis carinii that left him very wasted and depressed.

He had planned to come for a visit but flew home to his parents instead. Within a week he was back in New York. They simply could not stand to have him at home. They couldn't cope with his gayness to begin with, and found no way to deal with his AIDS.

Later in the summer, after trying each night for a week to reach Paul, I finally called his parents. His mother told me that he was in the hospital with cancer - she whispered the word. I told her that we were old friends and I knew he had AIDS and wondered if they had been to see him. She said that they simply couldn't stand the thought of going to see him in "that condition".

When I called him in the hospital, Paul talked about my conversation with his folks. He really wanted them to come see him, but was afraid that the impact on his parents might be too devastating for them. Even while he was lying in the hospital with a temperature of 104 degrees, dying of AIDS, he was trying to protect his parents from having to deal with him as he really was.

He was willing to suffer alone so that they might preserve their dream. I asked him for the name and number of someone in New York who would always know where he was. I then asked who that person was and he said it was his landlord.

Earlier I had asked several times if Paul had a group of friends, a support system, on whom he could call. He was vague, but said that it was somewhat difficult, although there were some people. After Michael's illness and death, his friends had shied away, fearing that the shadow of his misfortune might fall upon them. With the diagnosis of his own AIDS, most of Paul's "friends" just disappeared.

When I talked with Paul three nights ago, he said he was chilling quite badly and that he had developed a condition in one of his eyes which might bring on blindness. As always, I told him I loved him and that I would call in a few days. Tonight I called his landlord because no one answered at the hospital.

Paul died last night. Alone.

I went to the keyboard and played some show tunes he had done. I tried to play especially well, for I am aware that Paul's music is now lost to the world.

What is left? For me there are beautiful recollections spanning almost a decade. In my mind, Paul is sitting at the piano batting out "tit and ass" from a Broadway musical. He's balancing his beautiful frame on my little sailboat. He is telling me about the notebook full of new music which he is transcribing. All the scenes in my mind are full of energy, vibrancy, beauty, and love.

I wonder what his parents see? If Paul had been "normal" and had been dying from some disease such as leukemia his parents would they have been by his side?

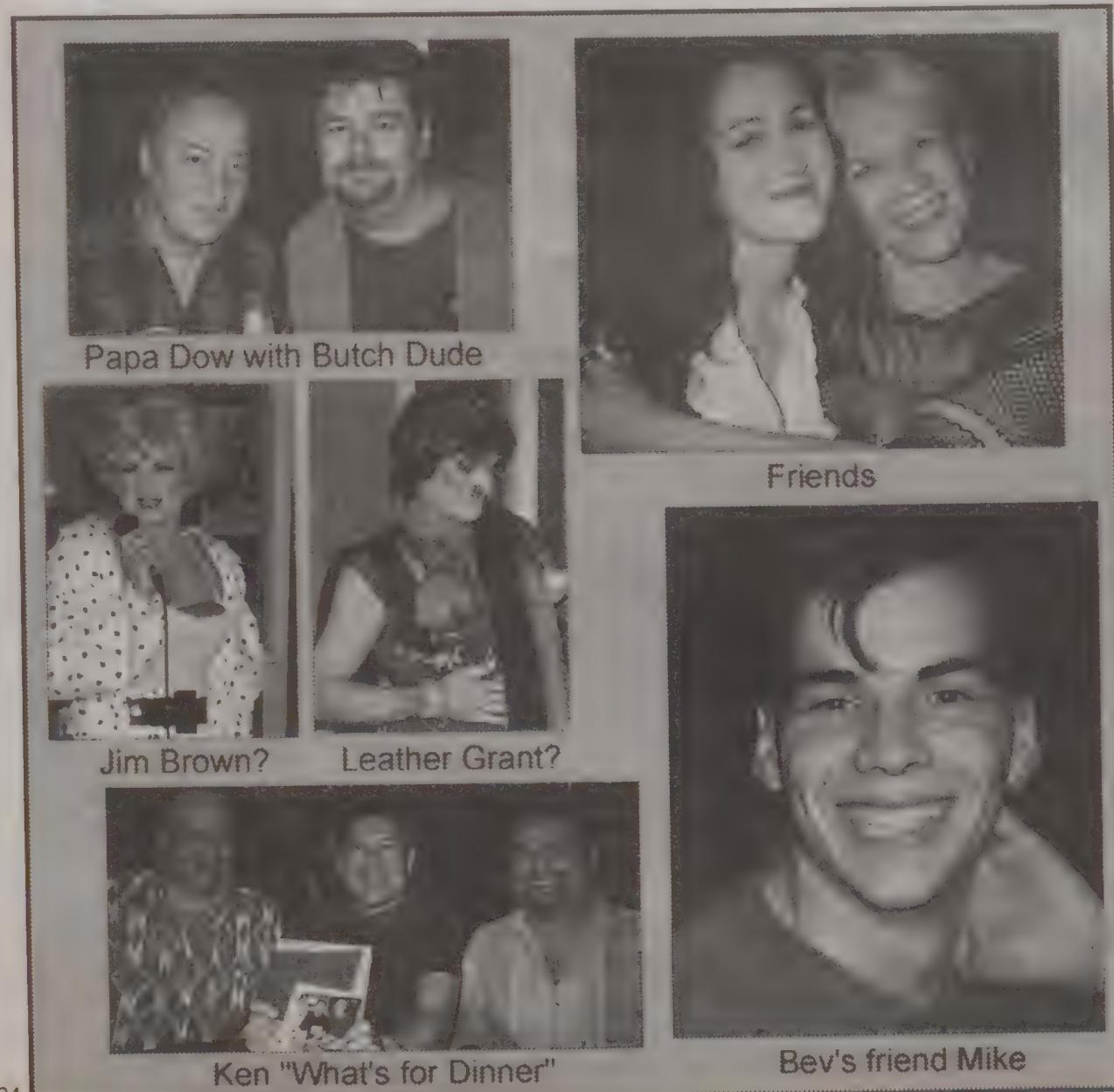
Though Paul is dead at age 29, he has created beauty, love, devotion, and service. I am richer because of Paul.

How ironic that his parents could not face him as he faced death. Now they must face him for the rest of their lives.

October 1986

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# HOROSCOPES

BY David Michael



## Aries

Foundation building is the focus for you in May. Now is the time to focus on your resources, both financial and otherwise to ensure they are firm. A new surge of energy and resolve regarding food and health matters could lead you to make changes in that area of your life. Your energy to cope with details is higher than usual now and the universe is likely to present you with many to attend to.

June finds you exploring and talking about new ideas. Communication is highlighted this month and your mind is more than usually active. Any details that have piled up over the past year that have yet to be dealt with will now come to the fore. Don't just complain about them, attend to them, for you can more easily now than ever.



## Taurus

As you approach your birthday this month, you will be called on to let go of all that is worn out or superficial. As your day passes you enter into your own personal new year, a time for focusing on personal and inner changes. You appreciate and value yourself at this time, and are more aware of how you come across to others. Your sense of values is at a high, and this can translate into better quality of life for you.

June finds you responding to new ideas and gathering materials, finances and resources to develop vital impulses you've experienced. You are far more social at this time and open to input from others that may help in the development. Spending is accentuated at this time, so watch that your need for the good things doesn't outweigh your practical good sense.



## Gemini

May dawns with your attention focused on group ideas. Goal setting is featured but as the month progresses you find you need to pull back and focus more on personal issues. Before your birthday arrives, it is wise to review this past year, letting go of things you don't wish to carry forward. You are able now to appreciate self sacrifice and the sublimation that goes into efforts with goals beyond your personal sphere. Your popularity is high in the latter part of the month. June starts with an intensification of the above, but soon finds you taking inventory. In mid month a shift begins in your concepts about relationships. By month's end you will be focusing on the resources you have available to further some very concrete goals.



## Cancer

Aim high in the early part of this month. New plans or projects started on the sixth show promise. Much good can result in career struggles that are occurring this year, if you give in to discipline, and the latter part of May could find you dealing with myriad details from a host of sources. If everyone wants a piece of you now, just go and try not to be too moody. June's early focus is certainly on surrendering yourself to the inevitable. Even where it is not apparent, the things you sacrifice now will be replenished later. Details abound this month as well, culminating around the twentieth. Pay attention to your diet and health. As the month ends, a little introspection is called for to replenish yourself as your birthday nears.



## Leo

Reputation and career prospects are highlighted during the first part of May. For those looking for career change or advancement, the sixth is especially prominent. Plans made at this time for change can be effective by the 14th.

Creativity and self expression are featured for the tail end of the month, along with goal setting.

During early June, let your ego flourish. This is a time for redefining how you shine to others. Setting personal as well as career goals during this month is a good way to take advantage of the heightened self expression cycle that you are in.



## Virgo

May begins with you still rethinking issues and decisions taken earlier. Be careful of overanalysis.

You are called upon to shed some excess baggage in the second week this month. By the 14th many of your concerns will have ironed themselves out without your input. Open up to new ideas, especially between the 13th and the 22nd, to get input for professional movement to come.

June's focus, especially after the ninth brings your new learnings into a place where they are recognized and rewarded. As always, pay attention to your health and daily routine. Overtaxing yourself can easily lead to accidents juggling abundant details. Be especially careful you don't trip between the 9th and 11th.



## Libra

Have you found your other half yet? This year gives great promise to do so if you take off your rose coloured spectacles for a short bit and get down to some really precise and clear communications. Mr. or Ms. Right could be the one you're already with. May gives the chance to explore new horizons, but you may have to be less argumentative.

June brings more public recognition which may translate for you as advancement in Career or change in same. For a few this spotlight could bring more people into your home. Openness to new concepts is crucial for your overall philosophical growth now, whether through studying, traveling, or just listening to others.



## Scorpio

After two months of seeming to have to re-do everything, May clears the way for renewed focus and energy. Partnerships are featured during the first part of this month, and so also are conflicts with others. Are your strong opinions alienating people who might be useful later on? Clear and detailed goals set during the next 6 weeks have potential proportional to their realism. The 22nd starts you on a new course on regeneration.

As June begins you need to clean out your closets, maybe in a literal as well as allegorical sense. You have an unimpassioned ability now to be unsentimental about some of the emotional baggage you carry. Throwing it away will enhance potential for things to come.



## Sagittarius

The next two full moons are in your sign and can bode well for accomplishing goals you've been actively working toward. May's focus on daily routine might seem too much drudge for many of you, but remember that if you iron out any kinks here, you'll have smoother sailing for the coming year. Health issues may center around head and throat near the 11th if you are not heeding the above dictive.

Never one to be shy of sharing your point of view, your communication skills are more than active this year, they are overflowing. However, June could bring a hesitancy to your outpourings, possibly through 'foot in mouth disease', or because you are now exposed to some concepts which are so radical you have to take time to assimilate them into your overall philosophy. By October you will have it all reworked and be back to your gregarious self.



## Capricorn

If you've been allowing the nurturing that's been coming your way for the past few months, then May allows an outpouring of creative energy for you. You can shine now, and take pride in your accomplishments. New projects begun at the new moon of the 6th however, will not pan out as quickly as hoped, with many details needing to be attended and final results delayed a couple

months. Speculative fever runs high in you during this time, but investments are likely to follow this same lunar path.

June's attention is more routine. You of all people, though, are aware that the long journey is made up of many steps, and should weather this period fine. Watch your diet and attend to health matters now. Be especially cautious on the 20th. Decisions made then will come to naught. By month's end the pressure is off and relating skills are called upon.



## Aquarius

A flurry of activity and much planning marks this whole year for you always busy types, but May gives the option of slowing down a bit and checking in with your roots. Attention to your home on the sixth could bring fast and positive results by the full moon. Communication with family at this time might easily lead to a furtherance of your goals before month end as well. Allow yourself some nurturing.

June could bring the appearance of a reversal in your plans, and make your aims seem unattainable. Although this may last several months, by fall it will pass and optimism returns. Where no reversal is evident, there will be many setbacks over the summer. Let this be, and go on with the creative process at hand. Your self esteem needs the boost that the applause for your efforts will bring now.



## Pisces

May will start for most of you with some confusion, even disillusionment about your future. Plans and goals seem to be on hold. Dreams take an unsettling turn and you might spend more than a few restless nights. Spending some time talking to a trusted friend will help keep up your faith through the unsettled times. You value communication more right now than usual and you find that others respond well to you. A communiqué on the sixth could further career potential. Taking the initiative in relationships is favoured.

June finds you spending more energy in your home or with your family. Relationship issues are still strong, but volatility is high. Be cautious how you deliver or receive criticisms in your dealings with others. Optimism may fade as career issues take a backward turn for the next few months. Keep your faith, this is just a passing phase.

*Note: Astrology based solely on SUN SIGN is bound to apply only vaguely to you personally. I recommend a more personalized reading for more accurate and telling information.*

*You can obtain a personalized horoscope for free from David Michael's Astro Logical Services care of this magazine. Be sure to include, Birthdate, Time, and Place of Birth.*

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**10:30 p.m. Sharp. Part 1**  
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**I am a gay human being,**  
If we lived in a just world, there is no reason I would  
tell you that, any more than I need to tell you my  
favourite colour, or the name of my favourite composer.

But the simple reality of this world is that there are  
people who hate gays, and who campaign against us.  
I am a human being like you, and I have the natural  
human need to define myself in the face of existence  
and in relation to other human beings who inhabit  
the planet.

So what do I, a gay human being, want?  
Of myself, I ask that I try to be the best human being  
I can by knowing that if I fail, it is enough to have  
reached for perfection with all honest effort.  
Of friends, straight or gay, I ask that we simply enjoy  
the mysterious wonder that is friendship, leaving the  
future to itself.

Of my family, I ask only that they let me love and  
thank them.

Of my lover, I ask only that we savour the joys of  
today and share its problems, as we have done with  
those of yesterday.

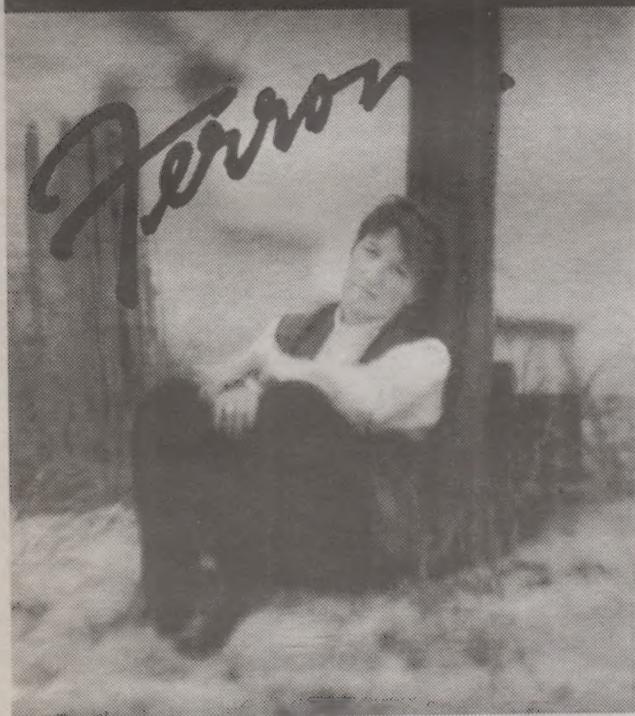
Of my government, I ask only that they recognize my  
right to earn a living, to live my life, and to  
contribute to the common good to the extent of my  
abilities.

And lastly, of my fellow human beings, I ask only  
that they agree with the wisdom of God, Who grants  
to a tree or a stone, to a flower or a cloud or a sod  
of earth neither protection from the uncertainty of  
the future nor freedom from the harshness of time  
and circumstance, but simply the right to exist in  
their own identity, as part of the world in  
which we live.

If these sound like ordinary human needs, it is  
because I am an ordinary human being.

I can ask no more. But, as God is my witness, I have  
no power in my body to ask for less. A.B.

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Provincial Museum  
Theatre  
8:00 pm

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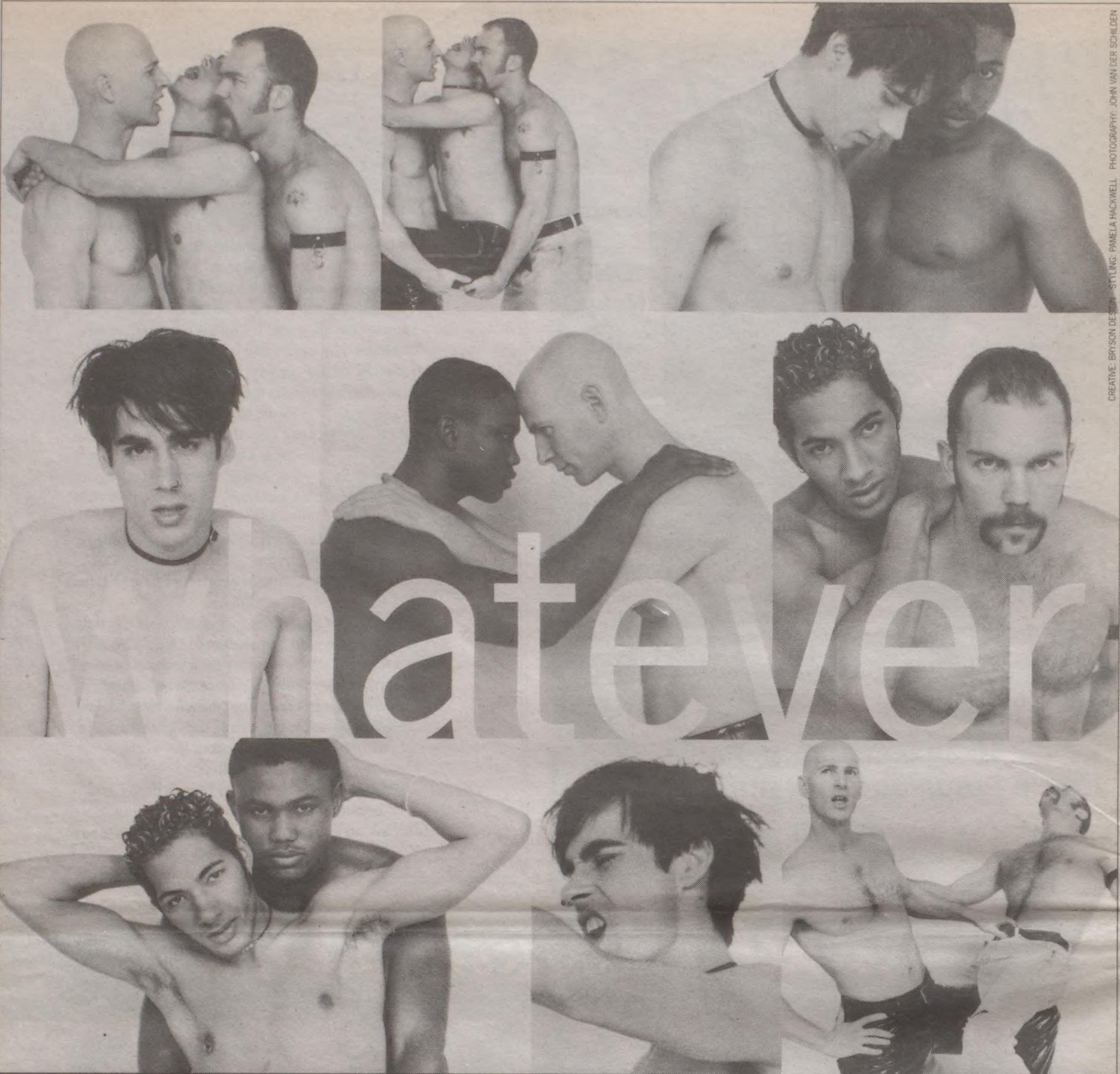
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